FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-90-026
Wednesday
7 February 1990

Daily Report
Latin America

FBIS-LAT-90-026 CONTENTS *7 February 1990*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Regional Communist Delegates Meet in Quito 1
  Cuban Delegate Criticizes U.S. *[Havana International]* 1
  Withdrawal From Panma Urged *[AFP]* 1
OAS To Continue To Offer Technical Assistance *[CANA]* 1

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

More on UN Consideration of 'Hermann' Incident 2
  Nonaligned Support Expressed *[Havana TV]* 2
  Commentary Views Situation *[Havana Radio]* 2
'Hermann' Undergoing Repair in Mexican Port *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 2
Official Complains About U.S. TV Channel *[Havana International]* 3
Hart Discusses E. Europe During Lecture *[Havana Radio]* 3
Trade With PRC To Exceed $500 Million in 1990 *[Havana TV]* 3
Restrictions Imposed Upon 'Freely Sold' Products *[Havana Radio]* 3

Dominican Republic

Caricom Protests Plans To Export Bananas to EC *[Bonaire Radio]* 3

Haiti

ANDP Holds First News Conference 5 Feb *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 4
CAP Issues Statement on 'Crisis' in Country *[LE NOUVELLISTE 1 Feb]* 5
Regional Electoral Bureaus Named by CEP *[L'UNION 3-5 Feb]* 6
  Report on Members' Backgrounds *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 6
Recent Arrests, Murders Cited in L'UNION *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 6
Contents of New Political Publication Outlined *[L'UNION 2 Feb]* 7

Jamaica

Trade Unions Criticize IMF Wage Guidelines *[CANA]* 7

Trinidad and Tobago

Revision of Clause in Telco Agreement Suggested *[CANA]* 8

MEXICO

*Ruiz Massieu Analyzes Postelection Guerrero *[LA JORNADA 11, 12 Jan]* 9

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica

Calderon Reportedly Picks Cabinet Members *[Hamburg DPA]* 12

El Salvador

Cristiani Reports Results of U.S. Visit *[Hamburg DPA]* 12
    More on Visit *[San Salvador TV]* 13
Joint Chiefs Chairman Ponce Interviewed *[DIARIO DE HOY 25 Jan]* 13
Air Force Head Views FMLN, Resuming Dialogue *[San Salvador TV]* 14
Security Officer Urges Extending State of Siege *[San Salvador TV]* 15
Monsignor Reports Persecution Against Church *[San Salvador TV]* 15

Guatemala

Army Respects Court Decision on Coupists *[PRENSA LIBRE 31 Jan]* 16
Military Officers Establish New Political Group *[EL GRAFICO 28 Jan]* 16
PSD, Dissident Christian Democrats To Ally *[PRENSA LIBRE 31 Jan]* 16
Dissident Faction Leader Denies Resignations *[PRENSA LIBRE 31 Jan]* 17

Honduras

Government Threatens To Close Palmerola Base *[AFP]* 17

Nicaragua

* Borge Poll Shows Chamorro Lead *[LA PRENSA 27 Jan]* 18
1 Feb Press Review on Election Campaign *[BARRICADA, etc.]* 26
    2 Feb Press Review *[BARRICADA, etc.]* 26
Repatriated Contras Criticize UNO, Bermudez *[Managua Radio]* 27
Cardinal Views U.S.-Sandinist Talks, Embargo *[BARRICADA 5 Feb]* 27
BARRICADA Supports Censured Newspaper *[2 Feb]* 28
List of 4,628 Political Prisoners Published *[LA PRENSA 4 Feb]* 29
Defense Ministry Reports January Contra Actions *[BARRICADA 2 Feb]* 29

Panama

Endara Views Mass Dismissals, Political Amnesty *[Panama City TV]* 29
Judicial Police To Arrest Former Officials *[LA PRENSA 3 Feb]* 30
    Duque Seeks Legal Guarantees *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 6 Feb]* 31
    Editorial Criticizes Decision *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 4 Feb]* 31
Nuncio Denies Calling Government 'Dictatorship' *[NOTIMEX]* 32
Nuncio Laboa Appeals for Moral, Legal Fairness *[LA PRENSA 4 Feb]* 32
Wanted FDP Figure Surrenders to U.S. Military *[LA PRENSA 6 Feb]* 33
Disrepect for Public Force Termed Not Advisable *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 6 Feb]* 33
Arias Comments on Role of Public Force *[Panama City Radio]* 34
Major Villalaz 'Trying To Revive' Air Force *[LA PRENSA 2 Feb]* 34

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Government To Increase Armed Forces Budget *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 5 Feb]* 36
Intelligence Service Under Secretary Appointed *[TELAM]* 36
Reportage on Foreign Minister's European Visit *[cross-reference]* 36

Bolivia

Iturralde Comments on 15 Feb Drug Summit Agenda *[EL DIARIO 2 Feb]* 36

Brazil

Sarney Meets Uruguayan Counterpart in Corumba *[Brasilia Radio]* 37

Chile

Pinochet Approves Law Protecting His Actions *[Santiago Radio]* 37
  Announces Army Reorganization *[Santiago Radio]* 37
Visiting Presidents Required To Greet Pinochet *[Santiago TV]* 38
Interview With President-Elect Patricio Aylwin *[APSI 17-31 Jan]* 38
Silva Comments on Cuba, Relations With U.S. *[COSAS 16 Jan]* 41
Resumption of Socialist Country Ties Analyzed *[HOY 15-21 Jan]* 42
Arms Sales to Iran, Related Events Disclosed *[HOY 29 Jan-4 Feb]* 42
Total Number of UDI Deputies Increases to 13 *[EL MERCURIO 25 Jan]* 44
Aeroflot Obtains Permission To Fly Into Country *[Madrid EFE]* 44
Japanese Vessels Spotted Fishing Illegally *[LA TERCERA DE LA HORA 26 Jan]* 45
* Ominami, Boeninger on Economy, New Government 45
  * Economic Program Outlined *[ERCILLA 20 Dec]* 45
  * Future Prospects Discussed *[EL MERCURIO 7 Jan]* 48

Colombia

Jury Sentences Killers of Patriotic Union Leader *[Bogota TV]* 54

Paraguay

Argana Comments on Quayle Visit, Current Issues *[EL DIARIO 6 Feb]* 54

Peru

Foreign Minister Stresses Coca Replacement *[Lima TV]* 54
Vargas Llosa in Lead for 8 Apr Elections *[Madrid EFE]* 55
  Suspected of Tax Evasion *[Lima TV]* 55
Leftist Leader Barrantes Refers to Party Split *[Lima TV]* 55
Soldiers, Terrorists Die in Ayacucho Ambush *[Madrid EFE]* 56

Uruguay

Lacalle Reports on Meeting With President Bush *[Montevideo Radio]* 57
Four Presidents To Attend Lacalle Inauguration *[Madrid EFE]* 57
Lacalle Defends Armed Forces Appointment Plan *[Montevideo Radio]* 57
New Army Commander Installed; Stresses Justice *[Montevideo Radio]* 58
Tarigo on Cooperation With Future Administration *[Montevideo Radio]* 58

Guyana

President Hoyte Leaves 4 Feb for Visit to UK *[CANA]* 59
UK Consultants View Country's Public Service *[CANA]* 59
Bomb Explosions on 5 Feb Draw Responses 59
  Government Issues Warning *[CANA]* 59
  PPP Accuses Government *[CANA]* 60
PPP Leader Wants Divestment Program Halted *[CANA]* 60

Regional Communist Delegates Meet in Quito

Cuban Delegate Criticizes U.S.

PA0702014390 Havana International Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] The Cuban delegate participating as an observer at the fourth meeting of South American communist parties in Quito said we are living in a historic moment that requires Latin American unity to face U.S. aggression and secure the well-being of our people.

Speaking on behalf of the Cuban delegation, Raul Castellanos stated that without unity, we will be unable to achieve and maintain the independence and economic integration that is so indispensable to overcoming underdevelopment. Moreover, Castellanos warned that the Panama invasion, the attempt to impose a military blockade on Colombia, and the threats against Nicaragua, as well as the rejection of peace in Central America, are current manifestations of the gunboat diplomacy being implemented by Washington.

Castellanos emphasized that the television project that is scheduled to begin anti-Cuban broadcasts and the attack against a merchant ship rented by Cuba are indications of a dangerous situation.

Withdrawal From Panma Urged

PA0602205690 Paris AFP in Spanish 0628 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] Quito, 4 Feb (AFP)—The South American communist parties ended their fouth biannual meeting here today with an expression of support for the multiparty system and the unity of the region's revolutionary, social democratic, and Christian democratic forces. They also demanded the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Panama.

They called for new elections in Panama and urged Latin American canal users to establish their position in the face of a possible extension of the U.S. administration of this waterway after the year 2000.

At this meeting, the South American communists reiterated their support for the "immortal ideas" of scientific socialism and attacked "the ideological offensive of imperialism" which, they stressed, "distorts" political changes in the Soviet Union and other East European countries "to sell the idea of the death of socialism."

Participating in the meeting were the general secretaries and other communist leaders of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Panama, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela, as well as observers from the DPRK, Cuba, Spain, France, the Sandinist National Liberation Front of Nicaragua, and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front of El Salvador.

The meeting also expressed solidarity with Cuba, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala in view of "increasing U.S. interventionism."

According to Rene Mauge, general secretary of the Communist Party of Ecuador, the forum discussed such topics such as drug trafficking, detente, and the communist perspective in Latin America.

Mauge added that drug trafficking, a crime against humankind, served as a pretext for the United States to invade Panama. He said that he advocates increasing alliances with other revolutionary—including social democratic and Christian democratic—forces in Latin America.

Mague also cited armed struggle as a means of fighting. He noted, however, that although this topic was not mentioned in the meeting, it is a principle included in the UN and OAS Charters because, "when all other democratic opportunities are closed, the people have the right to rebel against tyranny."

OAS To Continue To Offer Technical Assistance

FL0202203590 Bridgetown CANA in English 1723 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Feb 2, CANA— The Organisation of American States (OAS) will continue to offer technical and other assistance to Latin American and Caribbean countries despite the financial problems plaguing the hemispheric body, a senior official said here on Thursday.

Dr. Augusto Galli, executive secretary for economic and social affairs at the OAS, is heading a two member delegation to the region holding talks with government and private sector officials on possible OAS assistance to the region.

"I think Caribbean countries and all the Latin American countries as well will continue to receive technical assistance. The extent of it could vary over time.... But we are trying to work out with the countries a strategy of trying to drum up some external funding for the projects we are working on," he said.

"We are also discussing and having some change of opinions regarding the main challenges of Latin American countries and the Caribbean for the 90's....," he added.

Galli said his negotiations with officials in Dominica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Barbados were to allow them to outline their priority for assistance.

"We are at the stage where we would like to hear what the government needs are, so we are in a stage where the priorities are being set by the governments themselves," he explained. He listed tourism, training, and developing the export trade as priority areas outlined by the governments.

Cuba

More on UN Consideration of 'Hermann' Incident

Nonaligned Support Expressed

FL0602200590 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] The nonaligned countries represented at the UN Security Council expressed support for Cuba's request for that body to analyze the attack perpetrated by a U.S. Coast Guard ship against the "Hermann." The support of Colombia, Ivory Coast, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Ethiopia, Malaysia, and Zaire—who are nonpermanent members of the council—has strengthened Cuba's position in the consultations begun yesterday with all the members.

Diplomatic sources have reported that most of the delegations have come out in favor of the meeting, and only the representatives of the United States and the UK have publicly expressed their opposition to having the highest UN organization examine the Cuban petition. It is believed that the consultations will last a few days; therefore, the formal meeting at which the draft will be submitted to a vote cannot be held before next Wednesday. Likewise, it was learned that Cuba will cede its position as president of the council to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen for as long as the analysis lasts.

Ricardo Alarcon, Cuba's permanent representative to the United Nations, feels certain that the meeting of the Security Council will take place in spite of opposition from the United States. Alarcon, who is also the president of the council for the month of February, said that this UN body should condemn the U.S. action, ensure free navigation in international waters, and demand appropriate compensation for the damages suffered by the ship that was attacked. Alarcon added that a possible U.S. veto would prevent the council from acting, which indicates that something should be done so that the highest UN body can fully carry out its duties.

Commentary Views Situation

FL0602184290 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] It seems the United States will once again be placed in the defendant's seat at the UN Security Council. Despite its maneuvers and tricks, the case of the recent aggression against the merchant ship "Hermann," operated by Cuba, will be handled by this organization.

The Cuban ambassador to the United Nations, Ricardo Alarcon, yesterday said that in accordance with his consultations, and I quote, it is certain that the UN Security Council will meet this week in an official and formal manner to consider Cuba's demand, end quote. This will imply a diplomatic setback for the U.S. Government, which thought it could avoid having the topic brought before the council. The U.S. ambassador himself, Thomas Pickering, said that as far as he was concerned, the matter was closed. Pickering thinks his country acted in strict accordance with the law. In other words, the outstanding pupil of the State Department thinks it is legal to strafe a merchant ship in international waters with the intent of sinking it, along with its crew, on alleged suspicions that it is carrying drugs.

Nevertheless, diplomatic sources quoted by the Spanish press agency, EFE, say the council will probably meet on 8 February. Those sources say that even though the United States will allege that it acted within the law, other countries feel the strafing of the merchant ship is unjustified since Cuba had agreed to allow Mexican authorities to inspect the ship.

It is certain that Cuba will present sufficient evidence not only to demonstrate that criminal actions like the attack on the "Hermann" merit the council's attention, but also to condemn the cowardly felony committed by the United States. The most likely thing that will happen is that Washington will once again resort to its veto power, which will also demonstrate that the United Nations' main problem is democratization, a position Cuba has expressed before.

'Hermann' Undergoing Repair in Mexican Port

FL0702023190 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0120 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Tampico, Mexico, 6 Feb (NOTIMEX)—The Cuban ship "Hermann" will be repaired here so that it can sail after being attacked by the U.S. Coast Guard on Wednesday. The cargo ship was attacked by the U.S. Coast Guard ship U.S.-1320 "Chincoteague" when it was sailing in international waters in the Gulf of Mexico, because there were suspicions that it was carrying drugs.

The German enterprise Germanicher Lloyd checked the vessel and had port technicians patch with steel plates the holes left by machine guns in the deck compartments, cabins, and engine room. The vessel was shot 50 times but was able to arrive at the Mexican port of Tampico without major difficulties. Once the Panamanian-flagged vessel is repaired, it will be inspected again to ensure the safety of the crew. The ship will remain in the dock for another week.

Aristides Palma Palma, the Mexican port's captain, reported that 10,000 tons of chromium carried by the ship have begun to be unloaded. The ship will later be loaded with 1,500 tons of general cargo to take to Cuba. He added that the results of the inspection of the vessel, which allegedly was carrying drugs, were negative. The results of the inspection were handed over to the Cuban Embassy in Mexico.

Official Complains About U.S. TV Channel

PA0702023890 Havana International Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Carlos Martinez, frequency director of the Communications Ministry, has said in Havana that the delay in starting up the U.S. television channel that will begin broadcasting to Cuba in no way alters the hostile nature of the U.S.-sponsored project that evidently violates Cuban sovereignty.

The high-ranking Communications Ministry official made these remarks when being questioned by the PRENSA LATINA NEWS AGENCY on a news report, datelined in Washington, regarding the delay in testing the new television project because of technical difficulties.

Martinez noted the broad international opposition to this new aggressive project by Washington, noting that Cuba will respond appropriately. In addition, at the conference of Latin American and Caribbean culture ministers held this week in Argentina, the project was condemned.

Hart Discusses E. Europe During Lecture

FL0602221490 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2102 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Armando Hart Davalos, minister of culture and member of the Communist Party of Cuba's Politburo, recently gave a lecture at the Central University of Venezuela's amphitheater. The lecture was on culture in our country and the events taking place in East Europe. Hart explained the origins of Cuban anti-imperialist thought, the revolution's Marxist-Leninist and Marti thought approach, and Fidel's contribution to the process.

He added that the Cuban position is vital to all Latin American and Third World countries. He said imperialism will get a surprise if it dares to attack our beloved island.

The Cuban culture minister explained to some 2,000 Venezuelan students, scholars, and intellectuals the process of rectification of mistakes and contrasted it with the changes that have taken place in East Europe, noting that each country has its own history.

Trade With PRC To Exceed $500 Million in 1990

FL0702124990 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] PRC Embassy First Secretary Zhang Hong has said in Havana that the relations of friendship and cooperation between his country and the Republic of Cuba are very good and that they will continue to strengthen in the future. He stressed that trade recently increased by 50 percent. In 1990, he added, trade will exceed $500 million, which includes more than 1,000 contracts based on the existing agreements between the two nations.

The diplomat said that PRC delegations will travel to Cuba this year to analyze the possibility of building fan and bicycle factories in accordance with agreements signed by the two states.

Restrictions Imposed Upon 'Freely Sold' Products

FL0602142490 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1015 GMT 6 Feb 90

[From the "Haciendo Radio" program]

[Text] If there's anything annoying, it's abuse. There are those people who act excessively without realizing where their rights end and the rights of others begin.

In view of the exaggerated purchase of some freely sold [liberados] products and to control waiting lines for the purchase of items, the regulation of some of these products has been authorized in the country's capital. The Domestic Trade Ministry has empowered the administrative leaders of the people's government who manage the retail system of food and industrial products, to regulate, through their enterprises and establishments, the amount of freely sold items that should be sold per person.

An example of this is canned food, which should be sold in limited quantities in accordance with its availability so that it can be accessible to more people. An important measure to protect the consumer, which all the people should be aware of, is the existing, permanent prohibition on the sale of any product in bulk when it is normally sold on a unit basis or by unit of measure. For example, ball-point pens, which come in packages of 12, should be sold individually. This also applies to cream cheese, which comes in boxes. It should also be sold by the unit.

In the case of regulated products, the appropriate institutions are authorized to establish organizational measures to facilitate the acquisition of products for all the centers.

Dominican Republic

Caricom Protests Plans To Export Bananas to EC

FL0602122790 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] The Dominican Government is reviewing several protest notes from Caricom [Caribbean Community] countries objecting to its plans to export bananas to the European Community. Caricom countries believe such a plan is a violation of the Lome Convention, which the Dominican Government agreed to. The Dominican Republic intends to send 106,000 tons of bananas to the European market each year.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister James Mitchell sent a letter to the Dominican Foreign Ministry over the weekend saying it appears the Dominican Republic has abandoned its pursuit of Caricom membership.

Haiti

ANDP Holds First News Conference 5 Feb

FL0602190390 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 0950 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Report by Nancy Roc on first news conference given by the National Alliance for Democracy and Progress, the ANDP; on 5 February at the Castel-Haiti Hotel—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Roc] During the first part of the news conference, the leaders of the Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti [MIDH], the Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti [Panpra], and the National Patriotic Movement of 28 November [MNP-28] respectively—Marc Bazin, Serge Gilles, and Dejean Belizaire—reaffirmed their profound conviction that the solution to Haiti's crisis lies in holding honest, unfettered elections. The alliance explained, however, that they cannot participate in elections unless certain minimal conditions are met.

These conditions are, first, that the current government must solemnly reaffirm the sacred nature of the nation's basic law and its commitment to no longer modify the Constitution in any fashion or at any time it pleases. Second, there must be assurances that the exiled political leaders and prominent figures who may wish to return to Haiti can do so without obstruction and at any time. Third, all political prisoners against whom no criminal charges have been brought must be released immediately, and those against whom charges have been brought must appear in court.

Fourth, the results of the investigation entrusted to General Abraham by General Avril with a view to identifying those responsible for the brutality against the people arrested—which Gen. Avril termed slip-ups—as well as the measures the government intends to take to prevent such things from happening again, must be made public quickly. Fifth, elections must be held in the presence of a special UN observation mission, as has been done in the past in other countries going through a difficult transition. Sixth, the state of siege, arbitrary arrests, and mistreatment inflicted on political leaders, as well as the continuation of a climate that obstructs the functioning of political parties, have destroyed confidence in the possibility of a regular realization of the process as it had been previously established. Consequently, the alliance has decided to ask the Electoral Council [CEP] to modify the electoral calendar and hold the presidential and legislative elections first and simultaneously in July 1990. The elections for Administrative Councils for the Communal Sections [Casec] and municipal elections would follow, to be held sometime before 7 February.

During the second part of the news conference, journalists were allowed to question the leaders of the three parties of the ANDP. Bazin did not give a direct answer to a question regarding his position on the resignation of Francois Benoit and the statements (?Benoit) made to Radio Canada. We remind listeners that Benoit had emphasized that he no longer had any confidence in the military government after the emergency measures taken by Gen. Avril upon the establishment of the state of siege. In any case, Bazin insisted that now more than ever, Benoit was the vice president of the MIDH.

Furthermore, where does the MIDH stand? Is it willing to trust the current government to organize unfettered, democratic elections in Haiti? Bazin answered:

[Bazin, in Creole] "Our problem is not a problem of the government. Our problem is a matter of regularity, credibility, and the transparency of the electoral operations. We would stipulate these conditions regardless of what government were in power. We asked this particular government, particularly today, because we realize that what happened recently—the fact that they selectively shelved the Constitution...[changes thought] If every time Gen. Avril comes across a constitutional article that is not to his liking, he removes it so he can do something and then reinstates it, we are clearly not living in a stable rule of law, but rather in a state of permanent, selective disorder.

"Therefore, we have decided on six objective conditions that must be met before we will participate in elections, with or without Gen. Avril. The problem is not whether or not you trust him. The point is to have mechanisms in place capable of guaranteeing that elections can be held under conditions that give everyone an equal chance to win.

"Up to now, the CEP, with the calendar it had, has lent its flank to a series of manipulations. Nevertheless, as long as we believed the process could unfold fully under the conditions anticipated, we did not ask that the calendar be changed, although we did have quite precise ideas on the matter. Today however, considering what has happened, we have decided that for us to participate in elections under Gen. Avril or any other general or any other government, we need for these six conditions to be met. That is (?the alliance's) position."

[Roc] Regarding the elections, Serge Gilles of Panpra insisted the alliance would not back down—not under any circumstances whatsoever—regarding the conditions that the ANDP is asking to be met so that it will be able to participate in elections. Panpra's leader also talked about his arrest and the physical brutality to which he was subjected.

[Gilles, in Creole] "Whether it was a slip-up or not, frankly, we do not care! One thing is certain: I do not see why I had to be arrested at my home, kicked around, and have my vertebra knocked out of place. I do not see why they did not take me directly to the police station. They entered my home without a warrant. Why did they take me to be kicked around in the courtyard of the National Palace? In fact, it was in the courtyard of the National Palace that they ruptured my eardrum, and with extraordinary precision, let me tell you! If everyone in the administration had always been that precise, Haiti would certainly have progressed. They said: Serge, old buddy, every time you engage in politics it is because you hear well. Pow! And my eardrum was ruptured.

"So frankly, for us, the point is not whether or not there were slip-ups. The point is we have set these conditions. You say there were slip-ups. Fine. Conduct an investigation. Identify the people responsible and then apply the law against those responsible. That is all you have to do."

[Roc] Thus, both MIDH leader Bazin and Panpra leader Gilles have taken a firm position. The ANDP has stipulated the conditions under which it will participate in elections. However, what would happen if the government were to accept the alliance's conditions but later go back on its word? Dejean Belizaire of the MNP-28 answered:

[Belizaire, in Creole] "Political life is a series of events, and I think that each day contributes its particular new experience, its particular new data. If during the course of the struggle for democracy that we are waging, we were to see that these conditions were not really being respected, at that moment we would conform to the position we have taken here today. However, we cannot anticipate such a thing. We cannot judge anyone's intentions. Nevertheless, we are living a certain political reality. We have been living this political reality for the past four years.

"Thus, in view of such a situation, we simply say: Here are the minimal conditions necessary. This means the very least that must be done in the country for us to be able to participate in elections. And if we see that in practice, these conditions are not being respected, then the conditions necessary for us to continue with the electoral process the way it was begun will consequently not be present, either. Thank you."

[Roc] Regarding the electoral calendar, Bazin said that under normal conditions, the alliance could go to elections under the current calendar. However, in view of the recent events, MIDH feels the current electoral decree does not provide guarantees. Therefore, the alliance asks that this calendar be modified and that presidential and legislative elections be held first and simultaneously, in July of 1990. Casec and municipal elections would follow, to be held sometime before 7 February.

Another condition is that the elections must take place in the presence of a special UN observation mission. Regarding Gen. Avril's statements about the polls the CEP should conduct to find out if the Haitian people would or would not favor the presence of foreign observers, Bazin said that—and we quote—Gen. Avril obviously does not follow very attentively what happens worldwide regarding elections. In Chile, Honduras, and even Nicaragua—a communist country—supervision by foreign observers has been accepted.

Mr. Bazin concluded by saying the problem of foreign supervision has nothing to do with a country's independence, but rather has to do with democracy, credibility, and societal progress.

Thus, today, 5 February, the ANDP clearly outlined the conditions under which it will be willing to participate in elections. It now remains to be seen whether or not both the government and the CEP will be willing to accept these conditions, or to make concessions so that unfettered, democratic elections can be held in Haiti.

CAP Issues Statement on 'Crisis' in Country

FL0602180990 Port-au-Prince LE NOUVELLISTE in French No. 33.738, 1 Feb 90 p 8

[Press release issued by Fritz Antoine Thebau, secretary general of the Coordinating Body for Popular Action Party, on 2 February; place not given]

[Text] During an expanded meeting of its different organs, the Coordinating Body for Popular Action Party (CAP) decided to make the following statements regarding the crisis in our country—statements which it feels are timely.

1. The so-called state of siege government decree was not of such a nature as to modify the existence, for a long time now in Haiti, of an emergency regime; the most it did was to reinforce this regime through new violations of human rights: censorship of the press, violation of domiciles, torture, beatings, imprisonments, and deportations. Thus, the list of victims—in which the victims of 29 November 1987 figure prominently—has been lengthened.

2. The situation regarding human rights has, in effect, far from improved from 7 February 1986 to the present: The nature of the government remains the same. Furthermore, the party notes the isolation of the Avril government on the national level, and its total loss of international credibility. If before 29 November 1987, because of the nature of the government, the conditions favorable to unfettered, honest, democratic elections were not present, not even a caricature of such conditions exists under the current version of the government.

3. The CAP shares the sentiments of the whole of the Episcopal Conference's [CEH] declaration, and joins its voice to that of the CEH to call on all the nation's pro-change and patriotic forces to get together and unite with a view to devising a viable and lasting solution to the crisis.

2 February 1990, Fritz Antoine Thebau, secretary general.

Regional Electoral Bureaus Named by CEP

FL0602182290 Port-au-Prince L'UNION in French No. 299, 3-5 Feb 90 pp 1, 12

[All names and titles as published]

[Text] The Management Council of the Permanent Electoral Council [CEP] hereby makes public the Departmental Electoral Bureaus [BED] it is advocating, based on the proposals brought back by the CEP members in charge of supervising the three geographical regions instituted by the council on 30 November 1989.

Region No. 1:

BED for the Artibonite (Headquarters in Gonaives): Richard Jean Noel, president; Edouard Bedouet, vice president; Ulrick Cajuste, Jacques Edouard Bien-Aime, and Reverend Sylvio Dieudonne, members.

BED for the Northwest (Headquarters in Port-de-Paix): Hermann Andre, president; Jocelyn Bastien, vice president; Nerva Alexis, Armand Saintil, and Herold Pierre-Louis, members.

BED for the North (Headquarters in Cap-Haitien): Jean Renaud, president; Philome Fabien, vice president; Pinchinat L. Germain, Michel Docteur, and Ulysse Michel, members.

BED for the Northeast (Headquarters in Fort-Liberte): Duty Mackenzy, president; Fortune Audat, vice president; Obed St-Hubert, Hermionne Jean Francois Avelot, and Massillon Joseph, members.

Region No. 3:

BED for the Southeast: Moliere Ladouceur, president; Ronald Charles, vice president; Michaelle Craan Cabrol, Maurice Laguerre, and Pierre Nazon Beauliere, advisers.

BED for the Grande-Anse: Edner Etienne, president; Jean Bernadel, vice president; Mercier Josma, Germain Jean Mayard, and Joseph Sylla Joseph, advisers.

BED for the South: Saint Cyr Nelio, president; Aubourg Yvon, vice president; Mrs. Velau Pinette, Anselme Joseph, and Guy Delva, advisers.

Region No. 2:

BED for the Center (Headquarters in Hinche): Monpoint Ledoux, president; Michel Renard, vice president; Sanon Benoit, Christophe Honore, and Jean-Indrick Louis, members.

Nota Bene: Department of the West—results to be forthcoming.

Report on Members' Backgrounds

FL0602184190 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1500 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] [Announcer] The Electoral Council [CEP] has publicized the names of the people belonging to the different Departmental Electoral Bureaus, or BED's, throughout Haiti. Only the composition of the BED for the West is not yet known.

Our correspondent in Mirebalais will talk about the the area's Electoral Bureau, as well as about a press correspondent for the area who has had to go underground. Here is our correspondent in Mirebalais.

[Reporter Paul Smile Eliezer, in Creole] In the central plateau, regarding the electoral bureaus the CEP has undertaken to form, we have heard several comments from observers in the area to the effect that they do not know who some of the members are. We ourselves, seeking information on these people who have been chosen, obtained the following:

BED President Monpoint Ledoux is approximately 60 years old. He was the main justice of the peace in Mirebalais. He later became a prefect, but was not in that position long. Next, he presided over the Conajec movement [Jean-Claude Duvalier's political party]. He is also an agent with power of attorney.

Sanon Benoit is a secondary school teacher in the central plateau, a member of the Constitutional Assembly of 1987, and a member of the Consultative (?Committee) under the National Government Council. Renald Michel is an agronomist who works in the upper central plateau. Hendrick Louis is a secondary school teacher and an accountant. Christophe Honore is from Las Cahobas.

Also, our colleague Charite (Thelot), correspondent for Radio Antilles Internationales, is currently in hiding because of the climate of insecurity to which he is being subjected. At our complaints office, he said that a blue-gray Trooper jeep with armed civilians was looking for him last weekend. He is asking the nation's authorities to provide security for him so he can go about his business normally. We are following this matter for you.

Recent Arrests, Murders Cited in L'UNION

FL0602180590 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1500 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Six persons arrested under the state of siege, most of them members of the opposition, are still being held in prison. The daily paper L'UNION publishes their names. They include Sylvan Jolibois of the Jean-Jacques Dessalines Nationalist Sector. According to his wife, he was subjected to much brutality, which required the military to hospitalize him.

The others listed are Franck Rene, member of the PLH, or Haitian Liberation Party, arrested in Marchand Dessalines on the evening of 27 January and currently being held at the National Penitentiary; Franck Cenat; Erpe Moravia; Marie-Denise Douyon, a publicist; and Dr. Gerard Laforest. The latter two, Douyon and Laforest, are being held for illegal possession of firearms, and according to people close to them, they have been subjected to great brutality during their detention.

L'UNION says unionist Idli Cameau of the COH, or Haitian Workers Committee, is being sought by the police. The paper does not say why, nor why the other six people are still being held in jail.

Also published is a list of 16 members of the Armed Forces, most of them enlisted men, murdered in different parts of Haiti between 6 October 1988 and 19 January 1990. No information is provided regarding the circumstances of their deaths. Also, 33 rural police agents have been fired from the Haitian Armed Forces; however, we do not know why they were fired.

L'UNION also publishes the names and addresses of 119 people whose homes were searched during the state of siege, as well as a list of the weapons and munitions confiscated over these last few days by the authorities. [passage omitted]

Contents of New Political Publication Outlined

FL0602180290 Port-au-Prince L'UNION in French No. 298, 2 Feb 90 p 12

[Unattributed article: "Haiti: Hope Is Reborn"]

[Text] A luxurious and interesting publication has appeared under this title, composed and printed in Haiti for the PDP [expansion unknown]. With a cover showing a photograph of President Avril in military uniform, seated in the presidential chair, this booklet contains a page with a foreword signed by President Prosper Avril, lieutenant general, Haitian Armed Forces, president, which says: "On this day, a man of goodwill extends his hand toward other men of goodwill; an increasingly longer and increasingly stronger chain of solidarity must be established, so Haiti may live, so Haiti may progress."

The table of contents lists the following titles: When Hope Is Reborn; Proclamation of 17 September 1988; the "Citizens' Grievances" Program; Ministry of Interior and National Defense; Medico-Social Security Program for the Armed Forces; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship; Ministry of Public Administration and Civil Service; Ministry of Economy and Finance; When the President Speaks, Testimony for History; National Industrial Park Company, Ministry of Social Affairs; Enterprise for the Public Promotion of Low-Cost Housing; Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Rural Development; The Commissariat for Overseas Haitians; and Presidential Message of 17 September 1989.

With many up-to-date illustrations, "Haiti: Hope Is Reborn" constitutes important documentation for history and for collectors.

Jamaica

Trade Unions Criticize IMF Wage Guidelines

FL0602211290 Bridgetown CANA in English 1947 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 6, CANA—Jamaica's trade unions have hit out against the new International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreement, in particular the 12.5 per cent wage guideline, saying it is "totally unjust and unworkable."

The U.S. 108 million dollar package announced last week called for a 7.7 per cent devaluation of the Jamaican dollar to seven to one U.S., higher taxes, removal of subsidies on basic foods, and higher electricty rates. The wage guideline was increased from 10 per cent.

"It (the agreement) imposes cheaper terms of employment on the workers and wipes out the benefits of the previous wage guidelines. In fact, instead of encouraging increased efforts, the new wage guideline will frustrate and discourage workers' efforts," said Hugh Shearer, president of the powerful Bustamante Industrial Trade Union (BITU). The BITU, he said, could not support the new wage guideline in those circumstances.

Lashing the two and a half per cent increase, Lloyd Goodleigh, general secretary of the National Workers Union, which is affiliated to the ruling People's National Party, said what is needed is a national wage policy in which incentive payments allowed the more productive workers to be rewarded for their labour. Goodleigh noted that the failure of the IMF economic model had workers, management, and government advocating an incentive payment system as "a strategy for meeting macro-economic objectives."

The University and Allied Workers Union (UAWU) called on the government to reinstate free collective bargain and to "get rid" of wage guidelines. Wage guidelines further restrict the consumption of the workers whose labour is key to the expansion of production and who are in no way responsible for the demand which put pressure on the country's foreign exchange, said UAWU president, Dr. Trevor Munroe. The union will disregard the guidelines and "seriously warns employers not to try and impose any 12.5 per cent settlement in negotiations," Munroe, who also heads the Communist Workers Party of Jamaica (WPJ) declared.

Shearer said that the living standard of the worker has already been "savagely eroded" and now have to work more [sentence as received]

Trinidad and Tobago

Revision of Clause in Telco Agreement Suggested

FL0602173790 Bridgetown CANA in English 1502 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Feb 6, CANA—The Trinidad EXPRESS on Tuesday suggested reconsideration of part of a new agreement giving partnership in state telephone company, Telco [Trinidad and Tobago Telephone Company], and Britiish communications firm, Cable and Wireless.

In an editorial called "Extraordinary Privilege," the paper questioned the clause allowing proposed legislation to form the new company to go before Cable and Wireless and Telco before presentation to Parliament. The EXPRESS said it had no problem with government seeking to plug the drain on national resources that the debt-ridden Telco had become.

"But it is curious how great a leeway Cable and Wireless West Indies [CWWI] has been given in the agreement," the paper said. "The government seems to be offering CWWI and the restructured Telco the extraordinary privilege of exclusive judgement on proposed legislation."

The paper asked why such a move, since even a shortcut to block tedious bureaucracy was unnecessary given government's large majority in the House of Representatives.

"We must, therefore, question the driving attitude of the government which, in this particular case, seems almost to be giving legal sovereignty to a private company. Now why whould this be so? Is the government so anxious to obtain the business of CWWI that it abrogates public responsibility?"

The EXPRESS said it had no fundamental objection to foreign investment where no other course would work but it thought such agreements should be handled in a way which would allow Trinidad and Tobago to maintain some autonomy.

"In respect of this particular clause in the CWWI agreement, the government has clearly not followed this path and we would advise an urgent reconsideration of this aspect of the agreement," the paper concluded.

*Ruiz Massieu Analyzes Postelection Guerrero

90EM0082A Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 11, 12 Jan 90

[LA JORNADA interview with Guerrero Governor Jose Francisco Ruiz Massieu by Elena Gallegos in Mexico City; date not given; first three paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] 11 Jan p 5

Guerrero Governor Jose Francisco Ruiz Massieu thinks the call for his impeachment by the Party of the Democratic Revolution [PRD] will get little support from other legislative groups. He expects the Revolutionary Institutional Party [PRI] to present solid arguments in his favor.

In a wide-ranging interview, he talked about the political "breakdown" in his state. "The impeachment motion," he said, "will not make me angry with the PRD in Guerrero. The party's leadership in Mexico City—which inspired and promoted this demand—is one thing. The daily activities of its followers in Guerrero are another. With them, we need to resolve our differences and find ways to coexist."

He also discussed events in Coyuca de Benitez, Taxco, and Alcozauca. Concerning Alcozauca, he holds that PRI loyalists displeased by the election results turned to the Peasant Torch group of Puebla for help. Nearly 100 of its members remain in the town, he estimated, and they seized the city hall "just as the PRD has in many other cases."

[LA JORNADA] "How would you describe the political scene, with the PRD forcibly occupying 24 city halls and the PRI 2?"

[Ruiz Massieu] "That is inaccurate. Those are numbers from the PRD—it has an interest in creating a highly complex situation. My figures are: 14 city halls being occupied in varying ways and six sit-ins in front of city halls. In the cases of Alpoyeca and Alcozauca, the takeovers are in support of PRI.

"For the moment, efforts at dialogue between the PRI and PRD, frankly, have not borne fruit. The main thing—what we must achieve—is to get the parties to talk to each other without going through the governor. That way, he can keep his distance and gain strength for his tasks as an arbitrator and conciliator."

[LA JORNADA] "Why did the situation degenerate so much? Did the pact signed by the political parties break down? Do you feel you failed?"

[Ruiz Massieu] "No, not in the least! The government and the PRI began the dialogue with all the political parties some time ago. Even the status of the Revolutionary Workers Party [PRT] as a registered party was preserved. Relevant standards were set so that all parties would get permanent subsidies with extra for campaigns. "We donated houses to them to use as offices—the PRD included, but this party began the dialogue late. Maybe this reflects the fact that it has not straightened out its relations with the national government yet, but the truth of the matter is that it was a latecomer to the dialogue.

"It was in encounters of this sort that we agreed to settle differences by presenting tally sheets and voting records, but the PRD took a week to do this. I had breakfast with Deputy Wences Reza, and he agreed to the formation of a joint committee. It heard some challenges the first day, and the next day the PRD in Mexico City set a coffin outside the Chamber of Deputies and killed a gentleman who was not dead.

"So, all this was going on. Cardenas went to Chilpancingo and made his impeachment announcement. We moved ahead without any dialogue. The legislature began ruling on the elections, and four days later Deputy Wences showed up with tally sheets in support of six PRD victories, all of which were recognized.

"According to the governor, the PRD has contradicted itself concerning the number of races it won. At first they talked about 16. Now they say they want four of the six seats where the results were annulled, plus PRD control of 17 city councils. So now we're talking about 30.... But they haven't come forth with any documents. And even though the electoral process is over, they could at least try to persuade us. This greatly complicates everything and turns the situation into a shouting match...."

[LA JORNADA] "They say just the opposite and insist you committed fraud and that you badly debased the word "dialogue" because it didn't work...."

[Ruiz Massieu] "Electoral democracy has its learning stage, which is what we are going through. Without underestimating the importance of political pressure, which the PRD was counting on very heavily, legal remedies are also fundamental."

Calmly, he remarked on his plans for an early return to Chilpancingo, "where we will go beyond the question of impeachment to continue with the dialogue and the search for solutions." Once back home, "I will get together with my friend Othon Salazar to see how things are proceeding in the case of Alcozauca." Ruiz Massieu dismissed as "something out of Ripley" claims that the PRD, having forgotten to register its candidates for city councils, has a right to 80 such slots on the basis of the overall vote count.

This, he commented, even caused sparks in Acapulco, where a young lady went ahead and registered to the dismay of her fellow PRD supporters.

Before finishing, he stressed that the impeachment issue "was mainly a decision from above."

12 Jan p 3

[Text] "I am the one who postulates that we cannot be too harsh on followers of the PRD in Guerrero. They are just a collection of factions and personalities, and in their first four months, let us say, they have performed well. But I also believe that in the party's inner circle, the political—and not the antipolitical, or violent—wing ought to prevail."

Those are the views of Guerrero Governor Jose Francisco Ruiz Massieu. He aired them while analyzing the circumstances surrounding recent elections in his state.

[LA JORNADA] "Will the protesters occupying city halls be removed?"

[Ruiz Massieu] "I cannot look that far ahead. A time of persuasion and conciliation will come first. After that, there must come a time when the law is enforced. Holding buildings, public papers, and all the other things that go with takeovers are, strictly speaking, illegal."

He added: "I am aware that patience is the policy. We will see what happens in the first stage and then decide about the second...."

[LA JORNADA] "Why is Peasant Torch in Alcozauca?"

[Ruiz Massieu] "I paid particular attention to the case of Alcozauca for many reasons. The vote there, as the last three elections have shown, is very divided. Also, Othon Salazar is my friend, and several correspondents of La Jornada have expressed an interest.

"We saw the way the PRI was winning. At the San Miguel El Grande polling place, everybody voted for the PRI. The party got 560 votes, and that did not make sense because the experts tell us that when the percentage is more than 90 percent of the registered voters, there are grounds for suspicion. That is why the state legislature annulled the polling place, giving the PRD its margin of victory."

Ruiz Massieu said a group of PRI loyalists who refused to accept this outcome sought help from Peasant Torch in Puebla and occupied the city hall. But the attorney general confirmed there was no physical confrontation, and even Professor Salazar himself said he did not favor their forced removal.

[LA JORNADA] "But are you responsible for their being there? Did you invite them?"

[Ruiz Massieu] "No, I am telling you that I did not invite Peasant Torch in to prop up the PRI, but I am not going to treat them any more harshly than the PRD, either. The attitude toward everybody will be as patient and generous as possible."

Concerning Alcozauca, Ruiz Massieu considers it important to make clear that the outlook and pace of intellectuals in Mexico City cannot be transplanted to a small town seven hours away from Tlapa. "We cannot let ourselves be so heavily influenced by such aggressive leaders," he said in reference to the PRD.

And Taxco? The National Action Party [PAN] accuses him of sending in the police before a dialogue could even begin. Was force used too hastily?

[Ruiz Massieu] "Yes, it was."

[LA JORNADA] "What happened?"

[Ruiz Massieu] "We all made mistakes—the government, the PRI, and PAN. I say if we keep talking, we will not make them again....The dialogue continues."

Ruiz listed the factors he believes led to "this pressure situation." They included: eagerness to capture more elective posts whether they had been won or not; the undermining and delegitimizing of the political system we have built up over so many years; weakening the governor; and....

He pauses, choosing his words carefully: "There is a fourth kind of logic that some call psychiatric. It amounts to the resentment of Porfirio (Munoz Ledo). It has become their driving force....That is why Maranon's 'Theory of Resentment' has been recommended to me."

He went on: "At first, Porfirio focused his resentment on President De la Madrid. Why? The whole world knows: an emotional conflict with a member of his Cabinet. He transfers this hostility to President Salinas and to me...."

[LA JORNADA] "To you because of your close ties to the president?"

[Ruiz Massieu] "I started out regarding him with a sense of humor. Now I regard him with benevolence. This sort of logic is amusing, but there you have it."

[LA JORNADA] "Sir, to repeat, did your attempt at dialogue fail? There are those who say your state has a nongovernment."

[Ruiz Massieu] "No, that's not so. Not a single death can be blamed on the government, PRI, or PRD—not a single disappearance and not a single arrest. We did not suffer a high physical cost. Our dialogue with the PRD continues. The state is at peace. The potential for violence exists in only three or four places."

[LA JORNADA] "There were deaths in Coyuca. How do they weigh on the governor's conscience?"

[Ruiz Massieu] "It happened because the PRD set up barricades in an area where there are restaurants. Two people leaving one of them early in the morning drove into the barricade, ran someone over, got out shooting and killing, and fled the Vargas Maderos.

"And when you provocatively ask me if I think I have failed, my answer is: It is the cost everybody pays for learning, and it is best for all of us to learn...."

[LA JORNADA] "Including the governor?"

[Ruiz Massieu] "I have committed, am committing, and will continue to commit my every effort to carrying out the tasks of arbitration and conciliation."

[LA JORNADA] "And what about misappropriation of funds? The figure of 93 billion is mentioned."

[Ruiz Massieu] "That claim is absurd and all out of proportion. They say the government earmarked 51 billion pesos for PRI. The statement of public accounts approved—by PRD deputies included—last May showed us ending 1988 with P900 million. Based on that, it is a charge we cannot accept. Subsidies to parties, to all the parties, are given out according to state law.

"They, according to what I am told—because I have not seen them—are circulating computer readouts unsigned and unsealed. But on them are the names of every person, business, official, and even PRD people engaged in lobbying along with others who provide services to the government, who do public works....How remarkable that now, while trying to undercut the governor, they discover that! No, there is no basis for it."

[LA JORNADA] "And the political cost to your career?"

[Ruiz Massieu] "The governor measures political costs not in personal terms, but in terms of the people. He assumes his responsibility as head of the system, but this does not mean all decisionmaking is done in strict pyramidal fashion. At the risk of a slip-up in this interview, I would like to say this problem is comparable to a phone system out of order. There are so many levels of government, of the PRI, of the PRD, that when a decision reaches the top, its resemblance to its original form is less than exact....Sometimes the message is garbled. It loses its nuances and wrinkles....

"Solutions to political problems come slowly. They cannot be rushed. The media should be havens for reflection and calm, not catalysts for solutions that take time to mature...."

Costa Rica

Calderon Reportedly Picks Cabinet Members

PA0602234590 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2225 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] San Jose, 6 Feb (DPA)—Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier, opposition social Christian presidential candidate who won 51.5 percent of the votes in the 4 February elections against Carlos Manuel Castillo of the ruling social democratic party, who tallied 47.5 percent of the votes, is discussing names of potential members of his cabinet.

It has been learned that the president-elect will choose the following ministers to accompany him in his administration, which takes office on 8 May:

Presidency	German Serrano Pinto (vice president-elect)
Foreign Relations	Bernd Niehaus Quesada
Education	Marvin Herrera
Agriculture	Rodolfo Brenes Gomez
Transport	Rodolfo Mendez Mata
Security	Luis Manuel Chacon Jimenez
Government	Luis Fishman Zonszinski
Justice	Carlos Vargas Pagan
Health	Juan Luis Delgado
Housing	Cristobal Zadwaski
Economy	Mario Lara Eduarte
Finance	Jorge Guardia Guardia
Planning	Helio Fallas Monge
Energy and Mines	Hernan Bravo Trejos
Central Bank President	Claudio Gonzalez Vega
Ambassador to Washington	Gonzalo Facio Segreda

El Salvador

Cristiani Reports Results of U.S. Visit

PA0702015790 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0056 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] San Salvador, 6 Feb (DPA)—The Salvadoran president said today, upon his return from the United States, that this week he expects a reply from the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] concerning the possible resumption of talks to find a formula that will lead to peace in El Salvador, after 10 years of war.

Cristiani held a news conference at Comalapa Airport, 45 km east of San Salvador, after an 8-day tour of New York, Washington, and Miami, where he met with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, U.S. President George Bush, and religious groups, senators, congressmen, and businessmen.

The president reported that after his talks with Perez de Cuellar, the secretary general offered "to use his good offices" to obtain the resumption of the dialogue with the FMLN and that the secretary general's cooperation could entail his presence at the beginning or continously during the talks, but always heeding the Security Council's recommendations to use his "good offices" and at no time to mediate.

After this conversation, the first thing Perez de Cuellar did was send a personal representative to Mexico to meet with the FMLN, and after a report is presented to the UN Secretariat General, Cristiani will be notified of the reply this week.

"There is no exact or specific date for the resumption of talks, but Mr. Perez de Cuellar has shown his willingness to cooperate and we, the government, are grateful. Meanwhile, the FMLN sets obstacles," Cristiani said when stating that the FMLN insists that Perez de Cuellar be a mediator. Stressing the wishes of the UN secretary general for contributing toward the resumption of the dialogue, Cristiani said that he himself spoke about "good offices" based on what the Security Council had asked him and the same was done by the Central American presidents during their last meeting in San Isidro de Coronado, Costa Rica, in the Novemeber 1989 summit.

Cristiani also believed that his tour had been very positive, particularly because President George Bush had reiterated support for the democratic process in El Salvador. Cristiani also said he availed himself of the meeting with the the U.S. President to request assistance for a program that will be carried out in El Salvador in the struggle against drug trafficking and consumption, for which an executive commission has already been created.

Concerning a cut of $50 million, this is nothing new, as this was done in 1989 when an overall cut was made on the countries of the region and of the Caribbean. "El Salvador has already taken this into consideration, in addition to the drastic drop in the international prices of coffee and the damage done by terrorism following the Novemeber 1989 offensive," Cristiani said.

The Salvadoran president also disclosed that he had conversed with New York's Cardinal O'Connor and the president of the Jesuit universities, as well as with the Lutheran and Episcopalian bishops, to whom he explained what is happening in El Salvador and the measures the government is taking to guarantee the citizens' safety. In concluding, the Salvadoran president said the conversations with senators and members of the House of Representatives had been very fruitful, because they allowed clarifying of decisions, plans, and projects of the Salvadoran Government.

More on Visit

PA0702043690 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0308 GMT 7 Feb 89

[Report by Antonio Minero—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Minero] President Alfredo Cristiani returned on 6 February to El Salvador from the United States and voiced his optimism over the results of the visit, and announced that he is willing to meet with the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] when possible to seek peace. The president said that during his stay in New York he requested the help of the good offices of UN secretary general to resume the dialogue process with the FMLN.

Upon his return, President Cristiani said he was willing to resume the dialogue with the FMLN as soon as possible. The president met last week with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in New York, and said his administration's goal is to end to the war.

[Cristiani] "We are willing to resume the dialogue beginning on 7 February. We have been saying that we never gave up that possibility."

[Minero] It will now depend on the attitude of the FMLN, Cristiani said, adding that if there is a reduction of the economic aid or if conditions are placed on it, this would be used by the guerrillas to continue the war. In this regard, Cristiani also regretted the overall reduction of U.S. assistance to some countries, which included a reduction of $50 million for El Salvador.

[Cristiani] "Naturally, this has had a negative impact, particularly if we add this to the drop in coffee prices and the cost of the 11 November 1989 aggression."

[Minero] Cristiani then insisted that it is more urgent to end to the war, and, therefore, he sought the good offices of Javier Perez de Cuellar, as he said in the news conference. Cristiani also referred to a topic that has been discussed a lot in the country in the last few weeks—that is, if Javier Perez de Cuellar will only be a witness or a mediator in a forthcoming dialogue. The president said this should not be the Achilles heel of a forthcoming meeting between the government and the FMLN. Cristiani said this could happen only if the FMLN does not really want peace.

[Cristiani] "This might be one of those tactics again in which the FMLN might try to make it appear that it wants peace, but then hinders the talks. Rather, I think this should be discussed with the UN secretary general, as he has said he will act according to the resolution. This is fine for us."

[Minero] When he was asked about a report that appeared in THE WASHINGTON POST to the effect there was a deterioration in the relations between the U.S. advisers and Salvadoran military officers following the investigation into the murder of the Jesuits, Cristiani denied this. However, he added, the investigations continue.

[Cristiani] "To our knowledge, there has been is no confrontation between U.S. officers and the officers of our Armed Forces. As for the situation, there was a report in a newspaper—I believe it was THE WASHINGTON POST—and this led some officials to ask some questions. I am going to answer you in the same manner in which I answered them in the United States. I believe that here, in El Salvador, we are trying to find justice, true justice, and not speculate or find scapegoats, or yield to pressures. What the government of the Republic, with the support of the Armed Forces High Command, has sought from the very beginning is to conduct a serious and professional investigation about the case. The investigations will tell us who is involved in this situation."

[Minero] Concerning the extension of the state of siege, President Cristiani said this topic will be analyzed in the next few days by the Army's High Command and the Council of Ministers. Alfredo Cristiani conducted an 8-day tour through the United States during which he met with U.S. President George Bush, UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Cardinal John O'Conner, the president of the Jesuit universities in the United States, and members of the House of Representatives. The president said all of these meetings had been positive.

Joint Chiefs Chairman Ponce Interviewed

PA0702032290 San Salvador DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 25 Jan 90 p 2

[Text] The Armed Forces are "more united than ever" and are silently observing the proceedings against nine military men involved in the assassination of the Jesuits, to rule out any public doubts by those who might want to manipulate the enforcement of justice, Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff has said.

During his first interview this year, the high-ranking military officer said Marxist subversives have taken advantage of the killing of the Jesuits and their two maids in an attempt to divide and discredit the Army.

"The Armed Forces are aware of this and are more united than ever," the Colonel said, adding that he was "very impressed" last week when he confirmed this unity during a recent meeting with over 150 Army chiefs and officers.

A colonel, three other officers, two noncommissioned officers, and two soldiers were arrested following orders by a judge conducting an investigation on the assassination of the Jesuits perpetrated at daybreak on 16 November at the Central American University (UCA).

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said the Armed Forces have maintained a silence in this regard so as not to interfere with the investigations, because any statements could be interpreted as pressure.

Ponce added that the Armed Forces have fulfilled their duty in sending the military men involved to the judicial authorities. However, he noted, "no one is guilty until it can be proven."

Reporters reminded the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff that, within the overall condemnation resulting from the killing of the Jesuits, and Dr. Hector Oqueli Colindres' assassination in Guatemala, groups have been organized and are demanding investigations and the enforcement of the law against those who turn out to be involved. However, these same groups have forgotten crimes such as the assassination of Dr. Francisco Peccorini, Dr. Roberto Garcia Alvarado, Dr. Antonio Rodriguez Porth, Edgar Chacon, Gabriel Payes, Dr. Jose Francisco Guerrero, and recently, the attack against engineer Jose Hernandez, who is about to die.

The reporters added that in these cases, there have been no socialist or religious groups demanding the execution of the criminals, no homilies on the occasion of their death, and neither the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Scotland Yard, nor the Spanish police have been called in to investigate the crimes.

Col. Ponce said he agrees with the reporters. He reminded them that hundreds of thousands of military men have been killed by the left wing, yet no one has said anything. However, when others are killed, be they from a religious or a political group, the first thing people do is blame the Armed Forces or the so-called "death squads," or try to intentionally link these groups with the Army, and forget the FMLN-FDR [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front-Democratic Revolutionary Front] terrorist death squads trained in Cuba, Nicaragua, Vietnam, and Algeria.

In view of the reporters' comments, Ponce explained that the relations between Catholic leaders and the Armed Forces are "very cordial." He added that he has held several meetings with leaders from the Salvadoran Episcopal Conference in which the two parties have expressed their viewpoints regarding the crimes perpetrated by FMLN-FDR criminals.

Ponce disclosed that terrorist groups are planning to attack several sectors in southwest and northeast San Salvador between the last week of January and 10 February.

He added that Military Intelligence has learned that the FMLN intends to attack the zone of Finca El Espino, Santa Tecla, Zaragoza Huizucar, Ayutuxtepeque, Soyapango, and other sectors where coffee plantations are located.

During the criminal offensive unleashed by the FMLN-FDR on 11 November in 1989, bloody clashes occurred at the places mentioned.

According to Ponce, the FMLN leadership intends to carry out the attacks at the same time the Nicaraguan presidential elections are being held. "They want to be noticed and to show their sponsors abroad that they are still alive and have strength, but we are prepared," Ponce emphasized.

Ponce maintained that "aid from the Nicaraguan and Cuban regimes still continues arriving for the FMLN-FDR terrorists, but Military Intelligence is working to locate the places where the aid arrives."

Asked about the guilt of U.S. citizen Jennifer Casolo, who was released by a judge "because of lack of evidence," the high-ranking military officer said the Armed Forces simply follow orders issued by civilian authorities.

"During the investigations conducted to determine the guilt or innocence of Casolo, the National Police gathered all of the evidence and sent it to the court, which afterwards ordered the release of Casolo," Ponce added.

Air Force Head Views FMLN, Resuming Dialogue

PA0702032990 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Report by Ervin Ortiz on statements by Air Force Commander General Rafael Antonio Villamariona on 23 January; place not given]

[Text] In his first public comments since assuming command of the Salvadoran Air Force, General Rafael Villamariona said today that he favors a resumption of the dialogue. He pointed out that war is outdated:

[Begin Villamariona recording] I believe the military way is now passe. I believe there must be some sort of consensus, a dialogue. The government is responsible for finding the best path for our people and country. I believe that if the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] continues to behave as it did in the past, we would be wasting our time. [end recording]

For the general, the mediation of the top international organization, namely the United Nations, is a positive sign because it can prevent the parties from acting rudely or sowing discord, which could cause the process to fail. He noted that the FMLN must be frank and not act as it has on previous occasions, when they used the dialogue as a tactic for gaining ground and issuing propaganda. Villamariona said that if the military men involved in the massacre of the UCA [Central American University] Jesuits must be tried, the laws of the Republic, not speculation, must prevail:

[Begin Villamariona recording] I believe that the judges, that is, the law must determine what really happened; whether the rumors are indeed true; whether he [not further identified] was involved, because we cannot really say whether he is guilty until it is determined by the law. [end recording]

He pointed out that the military institution is becoming more professional each day, but added that there are certain groups within it that are allowing things to happen that should not be happening. As for General Juan Rafael Bustillo's tenure as Air Force commander, the military leaders said each commander has his own leadership style. He added that the good deeds of a commander should be emulated. Nevertheless, he pointed out that all guidelines will be changed to ensure that Air Force operations run more smoothly and effectively.

The transfer of command has not yet taken place at the Air Force. However, Gen. Villamariona has, for all practical purposes, acted as commander since the general announcement about the changes within the Armed Forces was made.

Security Officer Urges Extending State of Siege

PA0602222690 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Report on statements by Colonel Inocente Orlando Montano, deputy public security minister, by Alfredo Villareal at Treasury Police headquarters in San Salvador on 6 February]

[Text] [Villareal] Colonel Inocente Orlando Montano today confirmed that full guarantees are not yet present and thus, the legislative branch should not suspend the state of siege established in November in the wake of an FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] offensive.

The ranking military leader said military intelligence has detected guerrilla movements on the outskirts of San Salvador, and thus he expects new large-scale guerrilla activity in the urban area of San Salvador.

Col. Montano said the High Command will advise the Legislative Assembly to extend the state of siege to ensure public safety throughout the country.

[Begin recording] [Montano] I believe the terrorist threat facing the capital city demands that we extend the state of siege. I believe the Armed Forces High Command will soon advise the national Legislative Assembly to extend the state of siege to properly guarantee the safety of San Salvador residents; I should say not only of San Salvador, but the entire country.

We are currently gathering information that might prompt assembly members, that is the deputies, to vote in favor of extending the state of siege.

[Reporter] Why do you believe the state of siege should be extended? For how long?

[Montano] First, because the threat has not completely disappeared. We have information that groups—although small—are moving around certain areas on the outskirts of San Salvador. We have also learned that other guerrilla reinforcements could come from other areas of the country to support another FMLN offensive. This is why I believe the state of siege should be extended for at least one more month. [end recording]

[Villareal] As for statements by political segments of the population who will support the suspension of the state of siege, the officer in charge of public security said the High Command will, in the next few days, meet with the various factions of the Legislative Assembly to advise them on the need to maintain this measure.

[Begin Montano recording] The politician's position differs from that of those in charge of security. They are viewing this issue from another standpoint. I believe that security is more important. We believe that during the aforementioned meeting we will convince them that there is indeed a real threat; that there is a potentially dangerous threat; that we are enjoying a calm that could be deceiving. [end recording]

[Villareal] Col. Montano added that the public security corps over the next few days will implement a new patrolling plan to counter the most recent sabotage against various shopping centers, which have been the targets of dynamite attacks by FMLN urban commando units.

The military leader made these statements during a ceremony to transfer the command of the Treasury Police. The new director is Colonel Ciro Lopez Roque, who replaced Colonel Hector Heriberto Hernandez, who held the position in the security corps for the past 15 months. Col. Hernandez was appointed commander of the 6th Infantry Brigade, headquartered in Usulutan Department.

Monsignor Reports Persecution Against Church

PA0702043090 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0030 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Report by Fernando Aragon—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Aragon] This morning, Monsignor Gregorio Rosa Chavez, auxiliary bishop of San Salvador, reported on actions against the Catholic Church that he described as persecution.

The prelate regretted that there are people in the country who still do not understand the church's pastoral mission, which arose from the Vatican II Council. He also regretted that some people are carrying out actions that apparently have no importance.

[Rosa Chaves] "We have heard about threats to conduct a search. We have said that, yes, they can come anytime as long as they have the proper documents from the Defense Ministry—which is the norm that is currently in effect. There are things that begin like this and that are apparently unimportant, but they end up in tragedy. We have wanted to call attention to this situation and to the capture of an employee from the social secretariat [secretariado social] who is being held under arrest at the Treasury Police and about whom we were denied information."

[Aragon] Rosa Chavez also referred to the latest statements made by President Alfredo Cristiani, who said the searches at the church offices could only be carried out on orders from the Defense Ministry. In addition, the clergyman said the Church would request a meeting with the High Command to discuss the inconveniences faced by the church in its pastoral mission.

[Rosa Chaves] "The campaigns to discredit and slander always tend to arm the assassins. It is a situation that is difficult to stop, and that is why we have to look at the root of the problem, and we have to discuss things seriously. Problems should be discussed. If there are mistakes, they should be corrected. The church does its job with its cards face up. The church rejects violence completely. The church works in a climate of authentic sincerity and that is why it is open to all dialogues. It is open to all correct and fair complaints because we want to do things the way God wants."

[Aragon] The auxiliary bishop also said the basic problem regarding UN participation in the government-guerrilla dialogues does not lie in whether it should be a witness or a mediator, but in whether both sides really want peace.

[Rosa Chaves] "If there is a real commitment from both sides to achieve peace and remove the roots of war, I believe the role of the United Nations would be much easier, but if it is a pretext to promote an image or a propaganda campaign to give the apparent impression that they are interested in peace, that is a cause for concern. Therefore, the real issue is not whether the United Nations should be a witness or mediator, but whether the government and the guerrillas truly want to achieve peace in the short run."

Guatemala

Army Respects Court Decision on Coupists

PA0602233990 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 31 Jan 90 p 6

[Text] Guatemalan Armed Forces spokesman Colonel Luis Arturo Isaacs yesterday said the Guatemalan Army respects the decision by the martial court to suspend the sentence of 11 soldiers tried for participating in the attempted coup of 9 May 1989.

Col. Isaacs, chief of the Army Information and Dissemination Department, stated that the officers involved in the coup will be released after completing some administrative formalities.

Col. Isaacs said that according to military regulations, the soldiers involved in the case will have to be discharged from the Army before being released. Isaacs said the decision, which corresponds to the Armed Forces High Command, should be announced through a general order.

In addition, lawyers Julio Roberto Garcia Merlos and Jose Carlos Acevedo Chavarria, who defended some of the soldiers involved in the case, indicated that the proceedings are over and that once the defendants are discharged from the Army, they would recover their freedom immediately.

Military Officers Establish New Political Group

PA0702013090 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 28 Jan 90 p 5

[Text] Three military officers, who have previously participated in politics, lead the list of military personnel who have formed a group called "Military Front". They will immediately begin enrolling supporters in the party.

General Anibal Guevara, former presidential candidate; General Mario Lopez Fuentes, former National Liberal Movement (MLN) candidate; and Colonel Abundio Maldonado, founder and head of the FAN (National Broad Front); are the officers, who as citizens previously participated in political activities and who, along with other memebers of the armed institution, are also interested in further exercising their political rights.

The founders of the group decided on the evening of 26 January, after several meetings held at their residences, that it was necessary to join forces and fight in the same way other professionals do by exercising their political rights as citizens.

The various officers who make up this group will issue a communique next week outlining their positions, since many of them, like the three previously named, have already participated in politics, by virtue of their having been candidates for public office.

The idea of forming a national unity Military Front was a surprise to political as well as military circles.

Another political surprise that has occurred in Guatemala in the last few weeks is the decision that has been announced by union groups to participate in the coming elections.

PSD, Dissident Christian Democrats To Ally

PA0702032890 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 31 Jan 90 p 4

[Text] Guatemala City, 31 Jan—The National Council of the Democratic Socialist Party (PSD) has agreed to form an alliance with the Christian Democratic dissidents headed by Rene de Leon Schlotter to play an improved role in the Guatemalan general elections to be held in the last quarter of 1990. The PSD leaders held a meeting in the city of Quetzaltenango on occasion of the commemoration of another anniversary of the murder of PSD founder Alberto Fuentes Mohr.

The PSD Press Office reported that after a long and frank discussion, the PSD National Council decided to support the "electoral alliance policy" and particularly the alliance with the Christian Democratic dissidents headed by Rene de Leon Schlotter.

During the PSD National Council meeting, PSD Secretary General Mario Solorzano Martinez said that "the final decision will be made during the party's National Assembly—as it should be—and according to the party's laws and statutes. [quotation marks as published]

Solorzano Martinez added: "We can inform you, however, that the consolidation of the Leftist Democratic Front [Frente de Izquierda Democratica] will be a reality in the upcoming elections. The PSD's decision-making process has undoubtedly made considerable progress. That will guarantee an electoral alliance."

The PSD National Council also discussed the technical and structural aspects of the upcoming election campaign and all details related to the electoral strategy, particularly the alliance policy that the PSD National Executive Committee has been promoting since last year and the results it has had. According to the press office, during the meeting Solorzano Martinez "explained the stragegy used by the party, the results of the discussions held with PSD municipal leaders in the southern Guatemalan departments, in the departments of the high plateau, and in Alta Verapaz, as well as the results of the discussions held with Rene de Leon Schlotter." The PSD departamental secretaries talked about the situation in each of the places where they developed their activities and about their meetings with the coordinators of Rene de Leon Schlotter's faction.

Solorzano Martinez stressed: "The nation's socialist leaders have a flexible and open attitude. I believe this is the time to unite around a democratic, leftist alliance."

Dissident Faction Leader Denies Resignations

PA0702023190 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 31 Jan 90 p 2

[Text] Deputy Rene de Leon Schlotter, who heads a group of dissident Christian democrats, has said he and his supporters will not resign as members of the DCG [Guatemalan Christian Democracy], as had been erroneously reported in the media, but instead will only resign the leadership posts they currently hold in the party.

There were rumors in the last few hours that all the supporters of Rene de Leon would abandon the DCG ranks, but he said that for the time being they would remain in the ruling party.

Rene de Leon said that on 29 January the possibility of withdrawing from the party was discussed, but at the end of a meeting of the ideological and moral faction of the DCG, it was decided that they would remain in the party, but that the municipal general secretaries and other rank and file leaders who support his candidacy would resign from those posts.

Deputy De Leon Schlotter explained that the resignations will only be from municipal level positions and that the national leadership positions held by some Christian Democrats, who support his candidacy rather than the leadership headed by Deputy Alfonso Cabrera Hidalgo, will remain the same.

Deputy De Leon Schlotter reiterated that he will be a presidential candidate of the PSD [Democratic Socialist Party] and the People's Alliance. He said he will participate in the elections without the DCG symbol of a white star on a green background.

Honduras

Government Threatens To Close Palmerola Base

PA0602213490 Paris AFP in Spanish 2033 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 6 Feb (AFP)—The new Honduran Government today threatened the Bush administration with demilitarizing the Palmemorla Military Base, where the U.S. troops in this country are stationed, because of the "drastic $45 million cut in U.S. economic and military aid this year," it has been officially announced.

Vice President Jacobo Hernandes has cautioned that as a result of the cut in U.S. aid to Honduras, Honduras could review its military relations with Washington, because if the United States continues its maneuvers in Honduran territory, "it is only fair that Honduras should receive some economic benefit."

He also said the Palmerola Military Base, located 100 km northwest of this capital, could be turned into a civilian airport. He described the cut in military aid as regrettable because the budget apportionment going to the Honduran Armed Forces, approximately seven percent of the total national budget, is not enough to cover its expenditures.

In a communique issued today, the U.S. Embassy in this capital stated that economic aid to Honduras was reduced from $85 million to $60 million, and military aid was cut from $40 million to $20 million.

Mark Jacobs, who heads the Press Office of the U.S. Embassy, has explained that the cuts in international aid were worldwide.

Crescencio Arcos, the new U.S. ambassador to Honduras, said last week upon presenting his credentials to the new Honduran Government that the United States is facing a shortage of resources, but nevertheless aid to East Europe, the Andean Group countries, and Panama, will be increased.

Meanwhile, Rodolfo Irias, president of the Honduran Congress, has said that Honduras "is a permanent ally of the United States which. [sentence as received]

Nicaragua

* Borge Poll Shows Chamorro Lead

90EM0087A Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 Jan 90 pp 1A-D

[Excerpts]**UNO Seen as Solution**

The people of Nicaragua have confidence that the UNO [United Nicaraguan Opposition], with Violeta Chamorro, has the greatest capacity to resolve the main problems of the country.

Of those questioned, 44 percent said that the UNO, with Violeta Chamorro, can indeed bring peace to Nicaragua, while only 34 percent expressed confidence in the Sandinist movement.

Forty-six percent of the people believe that Dona Violeta will indeed provide the country with stability, while only 32 percent think that the Sandinist movement can do so.

Forty-seven percent expressed the belief that the UNO candidate is indeed capable of bringing about Nicaraguan economic recovery, while only 32 percent said this is true of the Sandinist movement.

In Dona Violeta and the opposition, 46 percent of the people see a greater capacity to bring about national reconciliation, as compared to 32 percent who believe that the Sandinists could do this.

Forty-seven percent said that the UNO could guarantee the citizens of Nicaragua a better future, while only 32 percent thought the Sandinists could do so.

Similarly, 47 percent believe that the UNO, with Violeta Chamorro, can bring food prices down, and 45 percent said that Chamorro can reduce unemployment. This same 45 percent said that Dona Violeta would put an end to corruption. The percentage of those who believe in the UNO and Chamorro appeared still greater with regard to a question as to who would put an end to Compulsory Military Service (SMO). Of those interviewed, 52 percent expressed the belief that Violeta Chamorro would do this.

As opposed to belief in Dona Violeta, the Nicaraguan citizens' belief in the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] does not surpass 30 percent, a figure which dropped even lower, moreover, with the question about the capacity of the Sandinist movement to put an end to Compulsory Military Service. Only a minority of 21 percent believes that the FSLN would put an end to the militarization of the youth.

Ortega Cannot Govern

Similar answers were obtained when it was a question of assessing the work of the Sandinist government. About 34 percent described the governmental administration during Ortega's 10 years as good. This percentage dropped dramatically to 23 percent when the question pertained to Ortega's work with the economy. A similar minority believes that the Sandinists cannot control the cost of living. In the handling of domestic problems, the Sandinists have only persuaded 29 percent of the people. As to whether the FSLN has helped "people like you," 27 percent answered in the affirmative, and a minority of 31 percent said that it "has reduced war and corruption."

In other words, less than a third of the citizens of Nicaragua have a favorable impression of the Sandinists, or believe that Ortega has done good work during the 10 years he has had total control of the government.

Chamorro Most Popular

The poor image of the Sandinists in the minds of the people of Nicaragua is confirmed by a comparison of the levels of favorable and unfavorable opinions among the voters with regard to the candidates for the presidency and vice presidency. This question in the Costa Rican survey produced a negative balance of 6 percent (37 percent favorable opinions and 43 percent unfavorable) for Ortega. Sergio Ramirez came close to this figure, with a negative balance of 5 percent (36 percent favorable opinions and 41 percent unfavorable).

Unlike the Sandinist candidates, Violeta Chamorro had a positive balance of 18 percent (46 percent in favor and 28 percent unfavorable), and Virgilio Godoy was in a similar situation, with a positive balance of 12 percent (38 percent favorable and 26 percent unfavorable).

As LA PRENSA reported yesterday, Violeta Chamorro retains a 7 or 8 point lead over Ortega in voting intentions, which, in the opinion of many analysts, points to a guaranteed victory for the UNO.

Voting Intentions

Chamorro's Strength	
Victor Borge Poll	Venezuelan Public Opinion Institute (DOXSA) Poll
37%	41%
Ortega's Strength	
30%	33%

If the election were held today, 37 percent of those questioned said that they would vote for Violeta Chamorro for president, while a minority of 30 percent said their choice would be Daniel Ortega. Some 30 percent remain undecided, and according to experts on electoral processes, this is a high figure with the election just a month away.

The analysts confidently predict a substantial increase for Chamorro in the next 4 weeks, based on the fact that the number of Nicaraguans expressing confidence in Dona Violeta's capacity to resolve Nicaragua's problems is much higher than the number expressing the intention of voting for her.

According to the experts, the high percentage of undecided voters shown in this survey is the result of the campaign of repression and intimidation the FSLN has launched with the electorate, which has inhibited the willingness of those interviewed to say which candidates they prefer.

Without a doubt, the struggles within the UNO, which are normal in coalitions but do harm to a certain extent to their electoral potential, constitute another reason that so many are undecided. Now that the UNO has embarked upon a phase of true unity, and the majority of the internal problems are being resolved, it is reasonable to expect that the voters will give their support to Violeta Chamorro.

It is important to note that Daniel Ortega has been gaining ground, as shown by all of the surveys, but not beyond the 30-percent level of confidence in the Sandinist Front.

As will be recalled, Ortega began as a candidate with less than 30 percent of the voting intentions, that is to say without acceptance even by his own people. With his advertising campaign, which has cost billions of cordobas, he has succeeded in winning over almost all of the FSLN sympathizers, but it is now very late in the game for winning the support of the sectors outside his own party.

We are basing this analysis on the results of the poll conducted by the Costa Rican Victor Borge and Associates firm under contract with the Electoral Propaganda and Control Institute.

Faithful to its commitment to truth and justice, LA PRENSA is fully reporting in this issue the results of this poll. Its reliability is supported by the data on the same subject provided by another public opinion poll conducted by the prestigious Venezuelan Public Opinion Institute (DOXSA).

The fieldwork for both surveys, on which we are fully reporting today, in complete compliance with all of the professional requirements, was completed at the beginning of January. Borge and Associates worked with a sampling of 1,200 persons interviewed, and DOXSA with 1,080. Both firms covered rural zones, including the Atlantic Coast, in the case of Borge and Associates.

The Borge Poll

Who Is More Capable?

In your opinion, which party, the Sandinist Front or the UNO, would be more capable of resolving the following Nicaraguan problems?

	FSLN	UNO	Other	Don't Know or No Response
Peace	34.0	44.2	1.7	20.0
Stability for the country	32.4	46.2	1.6	19.8
Economic recovery	32.5	46.8	1.7	19.1
National recovery	32.5	45.6	1.7	20.2
Guaranteeing Nicaraguans a better future	32.1	46.8	1.7	19.4
Ending SMP [Patriotic Military Service]	21.6	51.8	2.4	24.2
Reducing food costs	29.8	46.8	2.0	22.1
Reducing unemployment	31.1	44.8	2.0	22.1
Reducing corruption	31.5	44.5	2.0	22.1

Violeta Most Popular

Below you will see a list of individuals. State whether your opinion of each of them is favorable or unfavorable. If you do not know enough to give an opinion, indicate that, and also indicate if you have never heard anything about a given individual.

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Never Heard Anything	Do Not Know
Virgilio Godoy	38.0	26.3	8.1	27.6
Daniel Ortega	36.7	42.6	1.2	19.5
Violeta de Chamorro	45.9	27.7	3.1	23.3
Sergio Ramirez	35.9	40.6	1.8	21.7

DOXSA Poll

Violeta More Capable

Which of these individuals—Daniel Ortega or Violeta Barrios de Chamorro—is more capable of governing Nicaragua in the next 2 years?

Daniel Ortega	36%
Violeta de Chamorro	41%

Violeta Will Resolve the Crisis

Which of the two candidates, Daniel Ortega or Violeta de Chamorro, would be more successful in the following activity:

A) Reconciling all Nicaraguans		C) Improving the economy	
Daniel Ortega	31%	Daniel Ortega	31%
Violeta Chamorro	41%	Violeta Chamorro	42%
Neither	14%	Neither	13%
Undecided	14%	Undecided	14%
B) National reconstruction		D) Ending war	
Daniel Ortega	33%	Daniel Ortega	30%
Violeta Chamorro	41%		
Violeta Chamorro	39%		
Neither	13%	Neither	16%
Undecided	14%	Undecided	14%

People Support Chamorro

Shown a list of Nicaraguan personalities, those being interviewed were asked if the name of each was familiar, and if they sympathized with this individual or not. The answers with regard to Ortega and Dona Violeta were as follows:

A. Violeta de Chamorro		C. Daniel Ortega	
Don't know her	1%	Don't know him	1%
Sympathize with her	48%	Sympathize with him	41%
Do not sympathize	38%	Do not sympathize	45%
No comment	13%	No comment	13%

Borge Poll Sampling Plan

This survey was carried out by Borge and Associates in January 1990, and it was financed by the IPCE [Institute for Electoral Promotion and Instruction].

The poll, conceived as a part of a periodic process of taking the pulse of the political sympathies in Nicaragua, was based on a sampling of Nicaraguan voters chosen on the basis of random criteria, with coverage on the national level. The intent was to ensure reliability and validity, and above all to make the poll comparable with earlier and later assessments regarding the election scheduled to be held soon.

Population Involved

The sampling comprised adult Nicaraguans, 16 years of age or older, registered to vote, and living in private households situated in the populated centers of the various municipalities into which the country is divided.

The data in the sampling framework are those corresponding to the consolidated lists of registered voters, by region and municipality, as of November 1989, as drafted by the National Electoral Council.

According to the figures, the total number of registered voters is 1,750,548. This group constitutes the population of interest in this study, and it is distributed as follows in the various regions into which the country is divided:

Region	Voters	Percentage
Region I	169,133	9.6
Region II	295,339	16.9
Region III	462,446	26.4
Region IV	300,540	17.2
Region V	174,680	10.0
Region VI	245,072	14.0
Region VII	58,617	3.3
Region VIII	29,399	1.7
Region IX	15,322	0.9
Total for Nicaragua	1,750,548	100.0

Basic Aspects of the Sampling Plan

a) Size of the Sample

The survey was based on a total of 1,200 adults, making it possible to establish a maximal error in estimating the true proportions of individuals offering the various characteristics studied of about 3 percent. This means that in estimating the proportion of sympathizers with the groups which will participate in the coming elections, the results obtained in the sampling have a random error margin of 3 percentage points above or below the true population value (parameter).

b) Sampling Plan

Work was done with a stratified random plan, the criterion being the geographic regions into which the country is divided, with selection by stages.

The sampling framework was based on the data on the voters found in all of the municipalities in the country, which were grouped on the basis of the departments in which they are located within each region, and the assignment of the total sampling was made proportional to the size of the regions.

Thus each municipality constituted a Primary Sampling Unit (UPM), and the sampling of households and individuals therein was assigned in proportion to its size, defined in terms of the number of registered voters. For the selection of individuals to be interviewed, a system of selecting conglomerates or blocs of households was used in order to draft lists of the adults residing permanently in each household. From the total number of persons listed in each conglomerate, a selection was made on the basis of a random or systematic (periodic interval) procedure to determine the individuals to be interviewed, in order to achieve a distribution of the sampling over all of the households in the conglomerate.

In this selection, two demographic variables, sex and age, were controlled, in order to achieve a distribution of the sampling consistent with that of the population, and to allow identification of the individuals listed, despite the random nature of the selection process, with characteristics similar to those of the persons difficult to locate for interviewing. This was done to allow substitutions which would prevent the loss of the desired sampling size and the resultant increase in estimation errors.

On the basis of the above, the sampling providing national coverage comprised 120 conglomerates, in each of which 10 adults were selected and interviewed to complete the established sampling size. Once the conglomerates had been chosen (primary selections), they were marked on the respective departmental and municipal maps to help in the work of the interviewing team and to avoid bias in the selection of the households to be visited.

The Borge Poll

Are you registered to vote in the next elections?

Yes-100	No-00	Don't Know/No Response-00

In all of the communities or neighborhoods, there are different needs. Choose those things from the following list which are needed or require improvement currently in your neighborhood or community.

Needs	Yes	No	Don't Know or No Response
Education (scholastic)	56.0	39.3	4.8
Sports center	58.8	36.0	5.1
Church	45.8	50.1	4.3
Streets and roads	63.5	33.0	3.6
Health centers	60.7	36.5	2.7
Water services	51.7	45.2	3.1
Electrical services	46.0	50.4	3.6
Transportation services	85.5	00.0	4.5

What is the main problem facing Nicaragua at this time?

U.S. aggression	4.8		
War	16.9	Counterrevolution	0.1
SMP	1.2		
Food	5.0		
Economic situation	54.5		
Politicians	3.7		
Other	4.8		
Don't know or no response	8.9		

UNO Greater Than FSLN

The growth and consolidation of a real opposition force in Nicaragua is a novelty in the political history of this country which is clearly reflected in the survey made by the Costa Rican firm Borge and Associates.

The Somoza movement, like the Sandinist movement, undertook to cultivate an opposition force existing in the shadow of the thriving regime around it. In similar fashion, both movements have undertaken to destroy and disorganize the honest opposition which they sometimes allowed to voice its demands, but never to pursue projects or to participate in the political life of the country. Both systems opened the doors to war and violence as an alternative for maintaining political control of government decisions.

The resistance of the citizens of Nicaragua and international pressures finally [text missing]

The distribution of the sampling based on region size was as follows:

Region	Sample	Conglomerates
Region I	116	12
Region II	204	20
Region III	318	32
Region IV	296	20
Region V	120	12
Region VI	168	17
Region VII	36	4
Region VIII	20	2
Region IX	12	1
Total for Nicaragua	1,200	120

The details of the composition of the regions and the figures corresponding to each municipality, as well as the distribution of the conglomerates selected in each one, are appended hereto.

The following are some comments on the scope of this study.

1. The criteria used for sample selection ensure that the sampling is "self-weighted," which means that both on the level of the country as a whole and within the various geographic regions (strata), the results can be generalized directly by expanding the sampling proportions obtained to the total number of persons living in each.

2. Despite the above, it should be noted that while the data can be generalized on the national level, it is necessary to be cautious in making particular analyses for the geographic divisions used—departments and municipalities—since due to their relatively small size,

the samples assigned to the majority of them were very small. This is not the case only for Managua, where about 26 percent of the population is concentrated in the municipality, and 22 percent in the department. Therefore, the number of individuals interviewed makes it possible to break down the results on the departmental level. An attempt has been made to deal with this situation through the selection of the additional response in a group of departments.

3. Finally, it should be noted that in any public opinion poll, as in this one, the possibility of bias in the responses of the persons interviewed is to be expected. This is the result of factors such as reluctance to admit to sympathy for a given party at the present time, or the fact that many people do not decide in favor of a given movement or political group until the last moment.

From the following list, choose those you believe are necessary in a democracy.

	Yes	No	Don't Know or No Response
Peace	98.7	0.3	1.0
National unity	97.5	0.7	1.8
Free market	95.7	1.9	2.4
Existence of freedom	97.0	0.7	2.2
Freedom of expression	96.9	0.5	2.6
Work for all	97.5	0.4	2.1
Good health services	97.9	0.3	1.8
Free elections	97.9	0.4	1.7
Education	97.7	0.4	1.9
Better wages	97.1	0.5	2.4
Government leaders who listen to the people	97.4	0.7	2.0

Do you believe that Nicaragua is a very democratic, somewhat democratic, or not at all democratic country?

Very democratic—20.7	Somewhat democratic—27.7
Not at all democratic—41.1	Don't know or no response—11.1

Do you believe that democracy can resolve Nicaragua's problems?

Yes—84.2	No—5.8	Don't know or no response—10.0

Nicaraguans Want Democracy

Eighty-four percent of the Nicaraguans interviewed by Victor Borge and Associates agreed on the need for a democratic system as a solution to the crisis in Nicaragua. Only 6 percent expressed the opposite opinion, while 10 percent said they did not know.

When it comes to defining the characteristics of a democratic regime, the citizens of Nicaragua, even despite the high level of political polarization which exists, share common viewpoints on the aspects they believe should prevail in any democracy.

Ninety-nine percent believe in the urgent need to establish peace, and 98 percent believe in national unity and the need to create jobs for all.

Ninety-seven percent believe that there must be freedom of expression, liberty, and better wages in any democracy, and that the government leaders must listen to the people. Ninety-six percent think that there should be a free market in any democracy.

While the citizens of Nicaragua evidence unity when it comes to ideals and concepts, their differences are revealed when they are asked if they believe if Nicaragua is a very democratic, somewhat democratic or not at all democratic country.

Forty-one percent of the people believe that Nicaragua is not at all democratic at present, 27 percent believe that it is somewhat democratic, and only 21 percent believe that there is democracy in Nicaragua.

On the other hand, the majority of Nicaraguans say they have not heard anything about the liberation movements urging democracy in the communist countries. Of those interviewed, 43 percent said they have not heard any reports about the democratic revolution currently under way in the world, while 39 percent said they had, and 18 percent gave no response.

The above confirms the strict control exercised by the state over the mass media, which constitute a majority bloc which has censored information and provided disinformation on this subject of overwhelming international importance.

Similarly, 69 percent of the citizens of Nicaragua have no opinion about what will happen to these movements. Eight percent believe that they will achieve their goals, 4 percent that a total change will come about in these countries, 5 percent that there will be more democracy, and 4 percent that there will be more war.

Have you heard reports about the recent movements advocating democracy in the communist countries?

Yes—38.8	No—43.0	Don't know or no response—18.3

What do you think will happen to these movements?

Elimination of rebels	1.2
Democracy will be adopted	5.1
Support of demonstrations	1.5
More war	3.8
Total change	4.1
Goals will be achieved	7.8
Other	7.0
Don't know or no response	69.5

Through which of these media did you obtain reports about politics and the coming elections?	
Newspapers	32.3
Magazines	1.2
Television	21.7
Radio	34.7
Friends, relatives, neighbors	3.2
Other	2.4
Don't know or no response	4.5

Balloting Will Be Secret

In the survey carried out by Borge and Associates, the citizens were asked if they know where they are supposed to vote, what documents to bring with them, how to mark the ballot, and how to vote. Only 17 percent said they did not know, while 45 percent responded that they must bring identification when it comes time to vote. This reveals that the civic education campaign needs to be strengthened so that all Nicaraguan citizens will know what it is they are supposed to do this coming 25 February.

Seventy-nine percent of those interviewed believe that voting will be secret, 8 said no, and 13 percent still did not know.

No Confidence in the Sandinists

Only 32 percent of those interviewed by the Costa Rican firm believe that the FSLN would surrender power if it lost the election, while 40 percent take the opposite view, and 25 percent do not know or did not respond. Similar results concerning the attitude of the Sandinists once they have been defeated have appeared in other polls published in Nicaragua. The interesting thing here is that 41 percent of the Sandinists themselves do not believe that the FSLN would surrender power if it lost the election.

Nicaragua Demands Cease-Fire

Sixty-seven percent of those interviewed believe that the Sandinists should reestablish the cease-fire prior to the election. This view is shared by 64 percent of the Sandinists themselves—in other words, two-thirds of Ortega's own sympathizers.

Optimists and Pessimists

The levels of optimism and pessimism characterizing the electorate today are equal, since 37 percent believe that the UNO will win the election, while the same percentage maintains that the FSLN will win.

For whom would you vote for president of Nicaragua if the election were held today?		
Violeta Chamorro	UNO	37.2
Daniel Ortega	Sandinist Front	30.1
Erick Ramirez	Social Christian Party	00.6
Moises Hassan	Revolutionary Unity Movement	00.5
Bonifacio Miranda	PRT [Revolutionary Workers Party]	00.4
Rodolfo Robelo	PLIUN [National Unity Liberal Party]	00.5
Eduardo Molina	PCD [Democratic Conservative Party]	00.6
Blanca Rojas	PUCA [Central American Unionist Party]	00.1
Don't know or no response	30.1	

Do you know what you must do in order to vote—where you must vote, what documents to take, and how to mark the ballot?		
Take voter registration	44.3	
Take identification	00.7	
Voter registration location	08.6	
The above three	09.0	
Do know, but no response	20.1	
Don't know what to do	11.9	
Don't know or no response	05.4	
Do you believe that the balloting will be secret?		
Yes—79.1	No—7.9	Don't know or no response—13.0

Apart from the person for whom you plan to vote, with which political party do you sympathize most?	
UNO	33.4
Sandinist Front	31.7
Popular Social Christian Party	00.8
Independent Liberal Party	02.7
Constitutionalist Liberal Party	00.7
Democratic Conservative Party	02.6
Marxist-Leninist Popular Action Movement	00.3
Central American Unionist Party	00.4
Revolutionary Workers Party	00.5
Social Democratic Party	01.1
Social Christian Party	01.0
Conservative National Party	00.4
Conservative Popular Alliance Party	00.6
National Confidence Democratic Party	00.2
National Action Party	00.1
Neoliberal Party	00.1
National Unity Liberal Party	00.4
Social Conservatism Party	00.2
Don't know or no response	22.8

With regard to President Ortega's government, would you describe the work it has done as good?

	Good	Routine	Bad	Don't Know or No Response
In general	33.6	21.0	36.2	9.2
Economic work	23.1	19.4	48.4	9.0
Controlling living costs	23.0	18.7	47.9	10.4
Managing domestic problems	29.1	16.3	42.3	12.3
Helping people like yourself	27.0	17.0	43.7	12.5
Reducing war	31.3	15.2	43.1	10.4
Reducing corruption	31.8	13.9	43.0	11.3

If Mrs Chamorro and the UNO win the election, do you believe that the Sandinists will allow them to take office?

Yes—32.0	No—39.9	Don't know or no response—28.1

Do you believe that the Sandinists should reestablish the cease-fire before the election?

Yes—67.8	No—19.8	Don't know or no response—13.1

Do you believe that Nicaragua should have better relations with the United States?

Yes—80.6	No—10.0	Don't know or no response—9.4

The DOXSA Poll

A public opinion poll was conducted in Nicaragua by the DOXSA Public Opinion Institute, C.A., Caracas, Venezuela. Interviews of 1,080 registered voters, distributed as follows, were conducted:

Jinotega, Matagalpa	160
Chontales, Boaco	120
Leon, Chinandega	220
Managua	360
Granada, Masaya, Carazo, Rivas	220
Total	1,080

The survey was conducted between 10 and 17 January, 1990.

Those interviewed were asked whether, in general terms, they believed that things in Nicaragua were improving or deteriorating. Thirty percent said improving, 61 percent deteriorating, and 8 percent were undecided.

These individuals were asked whether they believe that the economic situation in Nicaragua is improving, deteriorating, or remaining the same. Nineteen percent said improving, 61 percent said deteriorating, 15 percent said it remains the same, and 4 percent were undecided.

Those interviewed were asked if, looking toward the future, they believe that in the coming 12 months the economic situation will improve, deteriorate, or remain the same. Thirty-four percent said it will improve, 10 percent said it will deteriorate, 16 percent said it will remain the same, and 40 percent were undecided.

What is the most serious problem Nicaragua is facing?

Economy	52%
War	19%
Unemployment	3%
The Sandinists	11%
The United States	9%
Other	6%
Undecided	2%

Those interviewed were reminded that elections will be held in Nicaragua this coming 25 February, and they were asked if they intended to vote. Ninety percent said yes, 2 percent said no, 5 percent were undecided, and 2 percent gave no response.

Looking at this list of candidates for the presidency of the Republic, indicate which you would vote if the election were held today.

Violeta Chamorro	41%
Daniel Ortega	33%
Erick Ramirez	4%
Moises Hassan	1%
Fernando Aguero	1%
Bonifacio Miranda	2%
Blanca Rojas	1%
Isidro Tellez	—
Eduardo Molina	1%
Rodolfo Robelo	—
Undecided	15%

Those interviewed were asked if they were certain they would vote for the candidates chosen, or if they might change their vote. Ninety-one percent said they were sure, 5 percent said they might change, and 6 percent were undecided.

If there were only two candidates for the presidency of the Republic, Daniel Ortega and Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, and if the election were held today, for which of the two would you vote?

Daniel Ortega (FSLN)	35%
Violeta de Chamorro (UNO)	42%
Neither	10%
Undecided	7%

What is the most worrisome problem in your community which you would like to see resolved?

Economic situation	20%
Streets, paving	13%
Water	6%
Medical facilities	6%
Street lighting	4%
There are no problems	3%
Home needs	5%
Repression	2%
Education	1%
Unemployment	6%
Poverty	9%
Crime	2%
Parks, sports facilities	2%
Sewage	2%
Public services	5%
Transportation	3%
Undecided	2%

[Question] Would you prefer that the government or the opposition win the election in February?

Government	35%
Opposition	50%
Undecided	15%

With regard to Daniel Ortega's government, do you approve greatly, approve, disapprove, or disapprove greatly?

Approve greatly	14%
Approve	22%
Disapprove	29%
Disapprove greatly	21%
Undecided	13%

Based on what you have experienced and heard, at what time was the standard of living in Nicaragua highest?

Prior to the Sandinist revolution	59%
During the Sandinist revolution	30%
Undecided	11%

If the government were to win the election in February, what would happen to the economy? Would it improve, deteriorate, or remain the same?

Improve	32%
Deteriorate	40%
Remain the same	15%
Undecided	13%

If the opposition were to win the February election, what would happen to the economy? Would it improve, deteriorate, or remain the same?

Improve	48%
Deteriorate	24%
Remain the same	7%
Undecided	22%

To what extent do you believe that the Sandinist government followed democratic principles in preparing for the election? Did it follow strictly democratic principles, more or less democratic principles, or no democratic principles at all?

Strictly democratic	30%
More or less democratic	43%
Not at all democratic	13%
Undecided	14%

Do you believe that Daniel Ortega, with the FSLN, or Violeta Chamorro, with the UNO, will win the coming election?

Daniel Ortega	37%
Violeta Chamorro	39%
Undecided	24%

Do you believe that fair elections can be held in Nicaragua?

Yes	64%
No	16%
Undecided	20%

If the government loses the election, do you believe that Daniel Ortega and the Sandinists will surrender power to the opposition?

Yes	41%
No	34%
Undecided	25%

Would you say that there is great fear, some fear, little fear, or no fear among the people with regard to voting in the February election?

Great fear	14%
Some fear	25%
Little fear	12%
No fear	44%
Undecided	5%

Do you believe that the election will be held as planned, will be postponed, or will not be held at all?

As planned	81%
Postponed	2%
Will not be held	2%

Undecided	15%

Are you aware that the United States has invaded Panama in order to oust Noriega? Do you approve of the U.S. action in Panama?	
Did not know	12%
Approve	22%
Disapprove	54%
Undecided	12%

Do you believe that a U.S. invasion of Nicaragua is very probable, probable, improbable, or impossible?	
Very probable	17%
Probable	30%
Not very likely	18%
Improbable	19%
Undecided	17%

Would you approve of a U.S. invasion of Nicaragua to oust the Sandinists?	
Approve	16%
Oppose	67%
Undecided	18%

Did you know about the accident suffered by Violeta de Chamorro? Do you believe that it is having a negative effect on her candidacy for the presidency of the Republic?	
Did not know about the accident	31%
It will have no negative impact	40%
It will have a negative impact	15%
Undecided	14%

In deciding for whom to vote, which is more important to you, the party or the candidate?	
Party	18%
Candidate	23%
Both	49%
Undecided	10%

Do you think that support for the Sandinists has increased, decreased, or remained the same recently?	
Increased	24%
Decreased	43%
Remained the same	23%
Undecided	10%

1 Feb Press Review on Election Campaign

PA0602212190

[Editorial Report] The Sandinist newspaper BARRICADA, on pages 1 and 5, carries a report on a Sandinist National Liberation Front—FSLN—rally led by Daniel Ortega in Puerto Cabezas on 31 January. According to the report, more than 12,000 attended the rally, with local leaders claiming they had never seen so many people. Hundreds of children had their picture taken with President Ortega. During the rally, Ortega recalled his meeting with local leaders in 1979. No Ortega statements are quoted.

Meanwhile, the opposition newspaper LA PRENSA, on page 1, reports on an opposition rally led by Violeta B. de Chamorro at El Sauce on 31 January. She told the people that "the agreements call for the government to grant amnesty and not a pardon, as the government is now trying to claim." She then asked them not to be afraid and to tell their friends and neighbors to vote. Chammoro also asserted that "my government is going to establish peace. We are going to achieve the reconciliation of all Nicaraguans."

The opposition newspaper LA PRENSA also reports on page 5 that a delegation of the Matagalpa Farm Workers Union had visited the LA PRENSA offices to complain of government repression in northern areas of the country. They claimed that they represent about 12,000 farm workers, and complained that their homes and crops are being destroyed and that their lands are being taken away from them. They requested that neutral observers be sent to the area. Everytime they place a complaint, they are told that "the judge is busy and cannot see you now." After recounting the murder of two peasants by the Sandinists 2 years ago during a rally, they claimed that a police lieutenant and sergeant were the murderers, and then gave the names of officials harassing them, adding that they want "the real truth about the Sandinist government's repression of the peasants to be known."

LA PRENSA also carries, on page 3, a paid ad by Violeta Barrios de Chamorro. She claims a UNO victory is a foregone conclusion, and the Sandinists are aware of this. That is why they are harassing and threateninsg UNO members. According to the ad, the Sandinists "are trying to infiltrate UNO campaign organizations to later sabotage them." She asks all UNO members to be on the alert for infiltrators, and calls on them to unite in their efforts toward victory. The ad ends, stating: "in 10 years they could not do it... UNO will change things."

2 Feb Press Review

PA0602204090

[Editorial Report] The Sandinist newspaper BARRICADA, on page 2, reports on a document sent by the Esteli Sandinist National Liberation Front—FSLN—Regional Committee to the OAS and UN observers. According to the document, about 200 contras are terrorizing the area. In the last eight days of January, they murdered nine government sympathizers, fighters, and poll watchers. The document lists the names of the murdered people, and the names and aliases of the contra killers. The 200 men are distributed in six groups, according to the report, and they are sabotaging the electoral process, ambushing personnel who go to outlying areas to deliver electoral materials, and pressuring peasants to vote for the opposition.

BARRICADA, on pages 1 and 4, reports statements made to the paper by Vilma Nunez, president of the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. She said LA PRENSA's renewed campaign of questioning the number of prisoners in the country is a "very low-level political maneuver", and it is "regrettable because not only does it tend to detract from the government's decision to grant amnesty to the prisoners, but it casts doubt on the census of prisoners recently made by the International Committee of the Red Cross." Nunez demands that LA PRENSA present some evidence to back these claims.

The government newspaper EL NUEVO DIARIO reports on page 24 that in Chinandega the government party has launched the final stage of its electoral offensive. It opened the "Departmental House of Propaganda and Political Education for all party members." It will be open 24 hours a day and will not close until the campaign ends.

On pages 1 and 8, LA PRENSA also reports on statements made by Yatama Indian fighter Domingo Pantin. For eight years, he says, he fought the Sandinists in the swamps of the Atlantic coast in the north. He also asserted that "during the 10 years the Sandinists have been in power, they have done nothing," adding that the people have been suffering disease, poverty, and hunger for many years and will not vote for the FSLN. He concluded that "the opposition is going to hand a crushing defeat to the Sandinists."

On page 2, LA PRENSA carries an article by Oscar Herdocia entitled "What Sandinism Cannot Do." The article asserts that "the Sandinists tried to install a Marxist-type government in Nicaragua," and they created "enormous, useless, costly government enterprises" and "a huge unnecessary army." He claimed the country is bankrupt and that "hundreds of thousands Nicarguans have fled our homeland." He addeded that now the Sandinists want to remain in power through fraudulent elections, claiming that only the opposition can return the country to normal; the Sandinists cannot do it because that would be against their ideology.

Repatriated Contras Criticize UNO, Bermudez

PA0602165790 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1227 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Contra leaders Tirso Moreno, alias Rigoberto; Diogenes Hernandez, alias Fernando; Victor Sanchez, alias El Licenciado; and Cesar Chavarria, alias Dumas, were recently repatriated, and they have stated they will not join the National Opposition Union, UNO, as the coalition's leaders hoped. The contra leaders registered yesterday at the regional Electoral Council office and said they support the reconciliation process in Nicaragua because this will permit an honorable demobilization of the contra forces that are still fighting.

Tirso Moreno said he and the other demobilized men participated in the Sapoa talks and were later expelled to Miami by Enrique Bermudez.

[Begin recording] [Moreno] I do not believe it is advisible to predict anything about the future. I do not think it is appropriate because we are currently engaged in an electoral process, and we should wait until the 25 February elections are over. The atmosphere will be much more clear after that, regardless of who wins, if the elections are clean, honest, and clear. I believe there will no longer be a reason to continue the war after that.

[Reporter] Are you in contact at all with Enrique Bermudez?

[Moreno] No. [end recording]

Victor Sanchez, alias El Licenciado, said Somozist Colonel Enrique Bermudez will do whatever he can to discredit the elections.

[Begin recording] [Sanchez] Enrique Bermudez and many people around him believe in the invasion doctrine. Therefore, they will do whatever they can so the Sandinist National Liberation Front is discredited and the elections are discredited. They want power without going to the battlefield. They want the gringos to deliver the power to them. Given the recent events in Panama, meaning the Noriega case, they still have hopes. They believe that if the people say a fraud was perpetrated here, then the gringos will intervene. This is one of the reasons we came back. We love our nation and we do not want foreign troops in our country.

[Reporter] Do you not believe that your position could provoke a reaction from Bermudez that could endanger your lives?

[Sanchez] Bermudez is a coward. I am not afraid of Bermudez. [end recording]

Cardinal Views U.S.-Sandinist Talks, Embargo

PA0602204890 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 5 Feb 90 pp 3, 4

[Text] Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo believes the U.S. Government will hold talks with the Nicaraguan Government and lift the economic embargo imposed on Nicaragua since 1985.

At the end of his Sunday homily yesterday, he told reporters: "I think the U.S. Government will talk with the Nicaraguan Government. Disagreements are settled by talking. The two governments will naturally talk as we progress in the electoral process, provided it is honest and clean."

Asked whether he also believes the U.S. Government will suspend its commercial and financial embargo against Nicaragua, Obando y Bravo replied: "I think the United States will immediately lift the economic embargo as soon as the elections are held, provided they are proven to be honest and fair."

The cardinal said the U.S. Administration has to lift the blockade if it is confirmed that the elections have been fair and that the people have expressed their will freely. "The embargo will have to disappear," he said.

The reporters also asked him: With the presence of so many international observers at the elections, do you think the United States will respect the election results?

"I think we should already be resolving our problems. Nicaragua should be for the Nicaraguan people. We should make ourselves respected. This happens when we do our duty and are honest," he replied.

Obando y Bravo added: "We should stop expecting others to resolve or settle our problems. We Nicaraguans are responsible for finding solutions. For this, we must be mature and make mature decisions, particularly regarding the electoral process."

Regarding President Daniel Ortega's initiative to pardon 1,186 contras and ex-Somozist guards, the prelate said he would have preferred an amnesty. "Pardoning or releasing prisoners is a positive measure because this helps in the country's reconciliation."

He added: "Should the armed resistance hold any prisoners, these prisoners should also be released, thus contributing to the reconciliation of the Nicaraguan people."

He said he has done everything possible to help those who have been kidnapped to return. For instance, he sent a bishop to Tegucigalpa. The Honduran Army Staff, however, replied that this problem could not be settled in this manner but must be resolved between the Nicaraguan and Honduran Governments.

"The contras have always said they are holding no one and that any people with them are Miskito Indians who have changed their names. Some of them are people who joined the resistance and were killed in combat. This is what they say," he finally said.

Cardinal Obando y Bravo recalled that when he was a child there was a fight between liberals and conservatives, who stole the flags from each other during the elections.

He said in the current electoral process there has to be a desire to win because "anyone joining a party wants to achieve power. He must, however, maintain a certain objectivity, keeping in mind that this is not a war but an electoral process."

BARRICADA Supports Censured Newspaper

PA0702012590 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 2 Feb 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Solidarity With END in a Political Judgement]

[Text] The Supreme Electoral Council (CSE) Media Directorate has concurred in the mistake of making a political judgement rather than a juridical one by putting EL NUEVO DIARIO (END) in the defendant's seat. This is an unusual precedent that the people cannot overlook, much less those of us who work in the media every day.

First, EL NUEVO DIARIO's constant accusations against UNO [National Opposition Union] politicians for their ties with former GN [National Guard] members (which resulted in the judgement) are real, specific, and verifiable. How many former GN members, who are now UNO candidates, have appeared on these same pages with their complete record.

This is only an example, and the most decent one at that. Yet if we refer to the hundreds of citizens kidnapped, tortured, and assassinated by the mercenary forces, as a way of proselytizing in favor of UNO, the matter is much more grave.

If you want to see things from another perspective, you merely have to ascertain UNO's systematic refusal to demand that the contras' demobilization. This is not all.

UNO does not limit itself to a constant violation of the electoral ethics code. It goes beyond insults, slander, and lies along with LA PRENSA. UNO and its spokesman have been endangering the electoral process, the country's economic stability, and the Nicaraguans' rights and guarantees for a long time.

UNO's vice presidential candidate blames the government for its activists' crimes every time he can—like in the case of the nuns who were assassinated by the contras. Nevertheless, the CSE Media Directorate's zeal and impartiality was conspicuously absent on each and every one of these occasions.

Even though the appropriate authorities and humanitarian organizations, like America's Watch, have fully identified those who assassinated defenseless civilians, this has not merited even a reprimand to the UNO members so they stop their lies.

The charges against END, for exercising its right to report UNO-GN ties, cannot be described as a violation of the electoral ethics code. How can the report of an organic, real, and specific relationship personally instituted by the former GN members and UNO—with everyone's knowledge and tacit consent—be an ethics violation?

It is one thing to have hopes for a more cautious tone in the news media—a goal we have endorsed countless times—but to bring on, in an arbitrary manner, in the name of caution, the denial of the right to tell the truth is an entirely different matter.

Faithful to the principle of the freedom to inform; and abiding by justice, reason, and truth, BARRICADA states its solidarity with EL NUEVO DIARIO. At the same time, we hope the CSE, as the organization that rules the Media Directorate, will bring the charges against END back to the realm of common sense and of the objective and impartial abidance by the judicial framework that the law provides for all the Nicaraguans.

List of 4,628 Political Prisoners Published

PA0602211290 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 4 Feb 90 p 8

[Text] The first official computerized list of Nicaraguan political prisoners has been published this week. According to Martha Patricia Baltodano, president of the Nigaraguan Human Rights Commission, 4,628 people have been officially reported as political prisoners.

Baltodano said that "although the document may not be exact or complete as to the number of political prisoners in Nicaragua, since many of them may have been freed, it is also true that many others who were arrested were involuntarily ommitted.

The first name on the official list—the first one prepared with modern technology by Nicaraguan human rights organizations—is Donald Abarca Melgara, followed by Denis Francisco Abarca Valle. The list ends with Merlo de Jesus Zuniga Estrada, who is prisoner No. 4,628 on the list.

Baltodano referred to a large number of poor opposition prisoners, who were detected by the police with the help of the Sandinist grassroots organizations in rural areas and cities. She noted that originally only suspected drug traffickers could be condemned based on simple suspicion, but that later the measure was made to include anyone suspected of rustling in rural areas.

The report stressed that "an accusation and a politicized judge is all that are needed to condemn an innocent opposition member as if he were a common criminal, because, according to the judge, the arguments of the accuser—the state—constitutes sufficient evidence."

Defense Ministry Reports January Contra Actions

PA0702012990 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 2 Feb 90 p 3

[Text] In an effort to hinder the development of the Nicaraguan electoral process, in January counterrevolutionary forces, which have infiltrated the country, have perpetrated 182 terrorist actions, leaving 38 people dead, including civilians and military, 65 wounded, 77 kidnapped, and 2 missing.

In a military report, the Defense Ministry notes that between 1 and 30 January, 182 mercenary attacks on civilian and military targets were reported, and emphasizes three ambushes on privately-owned vehicles in the Autonomous North Atlantic Region and Jinotega, which left four civilians dead and seven wounded.

Likewise, in Chontales Department, UNO [National Opposition Union] military activists murdered Jose Enrique Silva, age 10, in front of his parents, while in Jinotega and Madriz Departments they brutally murdered Tomas Salgado and Concepcion Santeliz Sanchez respectively, both of whom were FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] activists.

In Matagalpa Department, in an area known as Bul Bul, the counterrevolutionaries attacked ENCAFE [Nicaraguan Coffee Enterprise] facilities, where they burned 100 quintals of coffee and stole office equipment, including a communications radio.

The Defense Ministry report also notes the ambush of a Regional Electoral Council canoe in the area known as New Burg Point in the Autonomous North Atlantic Region.

The mercenaries also attacked the El Serrano area in the northern part of the Carlos Fonseca neighborhood in the Autonomous South Atlantic Region.

On 30 January, the armed propagandists of the self-styled UNO intercepted two Tona Brewery (Cerveria Tona) trucks in different parts of Chontales Department and stole 20 and 15 million cordobas from them, respectively.

Panama

Endara Views Mass Dismissals, Political Amnesty

PA0602133990 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] The National Government is carrying out all its actions within the law and, should there be any errors, there are judicial provisions to which citizens can resort to and appeal, President Guillermo Endara has said, commenting on criticism by attorneys and political analysts who say his administration is committing juridical errors.

[Begin recording] [Endara] As an attorney, all my actions are, I believe, based on the law. However, I am a human being and can make errors. Should we commit errors, there is an institution that has all guarantees and independence—the judicial branch. There are amparos, appeals to the courts against acts of the government, so all actions this government carries out—and any irregularities regarding the law—are submitted to the judicial authorities so they can make the pertinent corrections. We, I insist, will try to have all our actions based on the law. However, as human beings we can make mistakes, and this is why resources are available for these cases and this is the reason for which we have ensured and will ensure the independence and respect of the judicial branch. Thus, it can correct, point out, and amend errors.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. President, this might sound like a silly question. However, although you said you advocate the policy of not having mass dismissals, there are mass dismissals at various institutions, which many term unjustified.

[Endara] The dismissals I am aware of, and I must tell you I have reviewed all decrees on dismissals, because I also sign the dismissals as president of the Republic, have all been justified. All of them have been based on the law we had to adopt—as the first law—which was to defend state employees themselves, the Panamanian people, and the public administration from paramilitary, CODEPADI [Committes for the Defense of the Country and Dignity], Dignity Battalion members, and other criminals. We necessarily had to adopt measures against them. The measures were adopted, and we have dismissed those people. As far as I know, there are no mass dismissals except for fully justified cases.

[Reporter] Mr. President, is it too soon to talk about a political amnesty?

[Endara] There can be a political amnesty only when the people consider it suitable. However, at this time the people want and vigorously claim justice, which is a claim we cannot ignore. You should remember that the Panamanian people have been claiming justice for over 2 years. The people's shouts over the past 2 years demanding justice have reached heaven, and if they have reached heaven, they must certainly have reached those governing.

[Reporter] Is there a possibility that the Legislative Assembly may be empowered to grant amnesty?

[Endara] The Legislative Assembly is empowered to grant amnesty. I do not fully remember the power it has. However, it is empowered to do that and does not depend on the executive branch. [end recording]

Judicial Police To Arrest Former Officials

PA0602192690 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 3 Feb 90 p 1

[Report by Zoila Rodriguez Jovane]

[Text] Attorney General Rogelio Cruz has authorized the Judicial Technical Police [PTJ], directed by Captain Leslie Loaiza, to arrest and remand to his custody the former members of the General State Council because "they prevented the renewal of branches of government."

The Attorney General's Office indicated that the General State Council became the highest body of power during the last three months of the regime of former General Manuel Antonio Noriega, "to the point that on 1 September, it unconstitutionally appointed a provisional president and a vice president."

A document signed by Attorney General Cruz stated that by arbitrarily appointing a government, the members of the General State Council violated Article 302 of the Penal Code, which establishes that "the penalties set forth in the previous article will be applied against those who prevent the establishment, operation, or renewal of the branches of government in legal terms and forms."

According to the Penal Code, the crime is punishable by a five to 20 year imprisonment and prohibition of holding public office for a similar period.

According to Article 196 of the Constitution, the General State Council is formed by the president, who presides over it, the vice presidents, the ministers, the general directors of autonomous and semiautonomous institutions, the commander in chief of the National Guard, the comptroller general, the attorney general of the administration, the president of the Legislative Assembly, and the presidents of the Provincial Councils.

The list of individuals to be arrested includes: former Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, former Presidents Francisco Rodriguez and Manuel Solis Palma, former Vice President Carlos Ozores Typaldos, former Attorneys General Carlos Villalaz and Olmedo David Miranda, former Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter, former Finance and Treasury Minister Orville Goodin, former Education Minister Juan Bosco Bernal, former Agricultural Development Minister Darien Ayala, former Commerce Minister Elmo Martinez Blanco, former Labor Minister George Fisher, former Health Minister Jorge Renan Esquivel, and former Planning Minister Gustavo Gonzalez.

The list also includes former Government and Justice Minister Rodolfo Chiari De Leon, former Public Works Minister Rene Bultron, former Presidency Ministry Nander Pitti, former Labor Minister Cesar Martanz, former Housing Minister Ricardo Bermudez, former Deputy Finance Minister Julio Shaik, former IDAAN [Water and Sanitation Institute] Director Carlos Orillac, former IRHE [Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification] Director Benjamin Colamarco, former IPCE [Panamanian Foreign Trade Institute] Director Luis Barletta, former National Savings Bank Manager Jaime Simmons, and former National Bank Manager Rafael Arosemena.

The following names are also on the list: Former Colonel Pascual Gonzalez of Civil Aeronautics, former Lieutenant Colonel Virgilio Mirones of the G-5 of the Defense Forces Staff, former DIMA [Metropolitan Sanitation Directorate] Directors Nilson Espino and Dario Gonzalez de la Barrera, former INAC [National Culture Institute] Directors Mario Luis Pitti and Aurea Torrijos, former Customs Director Carlos Estrada, former Lottery Directors Ana Villa de Flores and Marta Amado, former Legislative Assembly President Celso Carrizo, and former Corregimiento Assembly President Fermin Herrera.

These names also appear on the list of former officials to be arrested: Aminta de Guillen, Dagoberto Lara Hidalgo Fung, Rafael Moreno, Eduardo Marin, Jorge Tason, Azael Purcait, Alberto Arjona, Eufemia Laguna, Jorge Bristan, Jose Rodriguez, Jose D. Arauz, Marcos

Mariscal, Victoria de Robolt, Ovigildo Herrera, Alejandro Vernaza, Euclides Tejada, Aida Gatner, Angel Modesto Jaen, Dario Fernandez, Elvia M. de Ortiz, Veyra Remon, and Tomas Noriega.

Meanwhile, the Attorney General's Office has authorized the PTJ to arrest 14 former ranking officers "for reasons detailed in the document," and pointed out that when the arrests are made the detainees must be informed of their constitutional right to legal assistance in accordance with Article 22 of the Constitution.

On the main list are former Lieutenant Colonels Elias Castillo, Theodore Alexander, Julio Ow Young, Bernardo Barrera, Eugenio Corro, Roberto Armijo, and Guillermo Wong. Colonels Marcôs Justines, Angel Mina Justiniani, and Alberto Purcell. Captains Rafael Cedeno, Asuncion Eliecer Gaitan, and Ivan Gaitan. Also on this list is PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] Legislator Alberto Aleman Boyd.

The Attorney General's Office also authorized the release of 11 Panamanians turned over by the Southern Command to the local administration a few days ago "because there were no charges against them."

The individuals released are former brigade members Eloy Mercado and Emilio Cazorla, and also Ernesto Santos Rodriguez, Victor Herrera, Humberto Melara, Roberto Garrido, Benjamin Ku Sanchez, Carlos Castillo, Nelvo Cedeno Villarreal, Felix Guardia Franco, and Severino Mejia Mosquera.

Sources at the Attorney General's Office told LA PRENSA that the list may increase daily in view of the large number of suits and accusations that are presented every day against the former civilian employees and military officers of the deposed Noriega regime.

Suits against certain government officials who are still holding their positions were examined yesterday, as in the case of Assistant Prosecutor Danilo Ballesteros and his secretary Roberto Chevannes, who have been accused of illegal actions against reporters and the media. They will be dealt with according to the law.

Duque Seeks Legal Guarantees

PA0702012690 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 6 Feb 90 pp 1, B5

[Report by James Aparicio]

[Text] On 5 February, Carlos Duque, president of the opposition Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), did not dismiss the possibility of an eventual meeting with President Guillermo Endara Galimany because "I believe in the possibility of a reunion of Panamanians."

Duque met on 5 February with Attorney General Rogelio Cruz. He was accompanied by PRD Secretary General Darinel Espino, Legislator-elect Mario Rognoni, and former PRD President Romulo Escobar Bethancourt.

The former presidential candidate for the National Liberation Coalition (COLINA), asked Attorney General Cruz to grant "legal guarantees" to the members of the General State Council and other former officials who have been summoned on a variety of charges.

Duque reiterated that a "political type" of persecution is underway, but added that it is necessary for Endara's government "to consolidate itself to allow the emergence of an opposition that will participate in the democratic process."

In response to questions by LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA, Bethancourt, a former canal treaty negotiator, described the country's situation as "confused" and added that "this is a moment that calls for all sectors to contribute to the normalization of the country."

Bethancourt said the courts should hand down decisions or investigate the charges that have been leveled against officials of the former regime, but he warned that "an atmosphere of political persecution should not be created."

"At least in some sectors, that is the image (of political persecution) that exists," said Bethancourt, who noted that "it is the duty of all Panamanians" to struggle so the U.S. troops who invaded Panama on 20 December "will leave our country."

Charges were filed on 5 February at the Attorney General's Office by former Legislator Marcos Alarcon against the PRD's National Executive Committee (CEN) and alternate legislator Alba Isis Castro, for alleged attacks against the physical integrity of individuals and against the Panamanian state.

Editorial Criticizes Decision

PA0702012390 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 4 Feb 90 p A4

[Editorial: "Democracy and the Reign of Law"]

[Text] The attorney general's unprecedented decision to order the arrest of a large number of citizens charged with preventing "the renewal of branches of government" has caused great surprise and confusion, because after more than 20 years of successive military dictatorships, our current government has a genuinely democratic origin and is, therefore, trying to act within the law and impart justice.

The charge means the people included on the long list issued by the attorney general were members of the General State Council of the past regime and that on 1 September 1989 they prevented Guillermo Endara Galimany from taking office as president and Ricardo Arias Calderon and Guillermo Ford from taking office as first and second vice presidents—all winners in the 7 May 1989 elections. The attorney general added that by preventing this, the members of the General State Council committed a grave crime, punishable by harsh prison sentences.

The most surprising aspect of the decision of the attorney general, who is a distinguished lawyer, is that it is totally groundless if one bears in mind that the Electoral Tribunal had annulled the 7 May elections—a decision that was upheld by the Supreme Court of Justice—and that in light of the situation, on 1 September there was a vaccum of power that had to be filled in some provisional manner to prevent the unacceptable situation of a leaderless nation. If the Electoral Tribunal subsequently changed its opinion, that does not change the undeniable and definite fact that Endara, Arias Calderon, and Ford—the ticket that won the 7 May elections—had not been officially proclaimed on 1 September.

If we are going to firmly and unwaveringly take the path of reconciliation—a basic requirement for successfully undertaking the urgent task of reconstruction—we need to quickly clear up any doubts that might tarnish the clear image of a truly authentic democracy. Many political regimes, especially the dictatorial ones, proclaim themselves democratic. We must not forget that the old Franco dictatorship of Spain called itself "fundamental democracy," and the East European communist dictatorships, which are fortunately being brought down, ironically called themselves "people's democracies."

The current Government of National Reconciliation and Reconstruction must be a government of all the Panamanians, whether they be white, black, blue or green. It must maintain open, honest, free, and even enthusiastic support from the great majority of citizens. It must be unconditional support, without any reservations, because this is the only way we all can contribute to getting our country on its feet, and because it is absurd to think that those who have a specific political affiliation are honest, competent, hard-working and patriotic, while the rest are scoundrels and incompetent.

Persecutive practices, the drawing up of "black lists," and manipulating interpretations to punish imaginary crimes, such as those attributed to the former members of the General State Council, will do little good for the country, much less the government. We are not defending impunity because that is something we have never defended. On the contrary, we believe it would be very healthy and exemplary to punish those who, in the past regime, utilized the favors granted by the military dictators—who held the real power—to commit grave crimes and to flagrantly enrich themselves. This is where the Attorney General's Office has a large and uniquely important task.

In a de jure state, justice must always be imparted calmly, without favoritism or a desire for revenge, and carefully avoiding any arbitrary actions or abuse of power. This is especially needed in our budding democracy because the country's health, which had been gravelly harmed, demands it.

Nuncio Denies Calling Government 'Dictatorship'

FL0702030590 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0110 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Panama City, 6 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Panama's Apostolic Nuncio Jose Sebastian Laboa denied today that he has called the new Panamanian Government a dictatorship and explained that what he did was express his concern over charges made against former officials. In remarks carried by the Panamanian RPC radio and television network, Laboa asserted that he did not characterize the government of President Guillermo Endara as a dictatorship.

According to a report published by the local press on 5 February, the Vatican representative was quoted as saying that Panama went from one dictatorship to another. Laboa stressed that that phrase, as it was published, was not his. He said what he did was express concern over the growing number of charges made against officials of the previous Panamanian regime.

Last weekend, the Panamanian Government ordered the detention of former Presidents Manuel Solis Palma and Francisco Rodriguez and other officials of the former regime. Stealing, misappropriation of funds, and abuse of power were among the charges made against them.

Laboa clarified that he commented privately that a transition like the one in Spain after the death of dictator Francisco Franco did not take place in this country. He asserted that there are differences between the two situations. He reiterated that he had said, always privately and not to the press, that if what was done in Panama after the fall of deposed General Manuel Antonio Noriega had taken place in Spain, we would still be going through a civil war.

Ricardo Arias Calderon, first vice president of Panama and minister of government and justice, said he did not believe the apostolic nuncio had made such remarks. (Laboa's comments) simply do not correspond to the situation we are experiencing, reality orders, said Arias Calderon. This is not a dictatorship, stressed the high-level official, indicating these types of views are expressed in the entire country without any fear, no matter where they come from.

Nuncio Laboa Appeals for Moral, Legal Fairness

PA0602164490 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 4 Feb 90 p 1

[Report by Manuel Alvarez Cedeno and Liz Erika Carrasco]

[Text] Under the country's current circumstances, justice must be administered through "true moral and legal criteria, or else we can easily commit arbitrary actions." Those remarks were made by Apostolic Nuncio Monsignor Jose Sebastian Laboa, who this morning paid a surprise courtesy visit to this newspaper. During his visit, which took the entire staff by surprise, the nuncio said: "I came to pay a courtesy visit, and I greet you and the company." Reporter Herasto Reyes explained to him how the newspaper operates and the work it carries out every day of the year. The nuncio congratulated him on the culture section of the newspaper.

LA PRENSA is the first Panamanian newspaper the apostolic nuncio has visited, because, as he said, "it is my newspaper, and I am happy it came out so quickly and efficiently." On this matter, Msgr. Laboa added that a great deal has been accomplished since the newspaper reopened one month ago, adding: "Now we have a newspaper that is a pleasure to read, and with the international news section one learns what is happening in the world, so one does not pay much attention to other newspapers."

"If we lose our sense of equity and judgement, we run the risk of being unjust," Laboa said, adding that "arbitrariness" in dispensing justice is one of the worst things that can happen. Referring to Manuel Antonio Noriega's head of security, Eliecer Gaitan, who has taken refuge at the nunciature and who is accused of executing several officers who tried to topple former General Noriega on 3 October, Laboa said: "I know that he was involved in a firing squad on orders from his superiors and would have put his own life at risk if he had not carried out the execution."

He said many other things have been said about Gaitan, but other than that (the execution), they are not true. "As far as I know, Gaitan never participated in tortures, did not enrich himself, and he has no past other than being a pure and very strong officer. I know that he has denounced one of the torturers, who lost his rank as a soldier because of that," Laboa noted.

According to the Holy See envoy in Panama, "Gaitan seems to me to be a fierce enemy of torture." However, he said "I am not in a position and do not have all the information to make a balanced judgment. I do not think anybody is right now, because there is much gossip going on, and many people who have filed suits have had to retract them when confronted with the facts." Laboa said Gaitan's role in the execution "on orders from his superiors, does not justify the crime he is accused of, but his case cannot be confused with a simple crime committed by someone on his own."

The nuncio said we "must be able to see things from every point of view and learn what the hard facts are. There is no justification for a crime, but there may be significant attenuating circumstances." Laboa reiterated that imparting justice is very difficult and to judge specific incidents and "assess them in their proper moral and legal light is not easy. Certainly hearsay evidence has no place here." He said: "I believe that we must be very careful when making moral and legal judgements. I am convinced that we are taking many cases too lightly. There have been crimes, and although they are not excused by the attenuating circumstances I mentioned, we must equitably assess things," the nuncio indicated.

Wanted FDP Figure Surrenders to U.S. Military

PA0602210590 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 6 Feb 90 p 1

[Report by Wilfredo Justavino]

[Text] David, Chiriqui—Eliezer Gonzalez, aka "Indio," a former member of the defunct Panama Defense Forces [FDP] who was better known as "Bruce Lee," yesterday surrendered to the U.S. Armed Forces, LA PRENSA has learned.

Gonzalez has been accused by several of his former comrades in arms of killing Dr. Hugo Spadafora by strangling and then decapitating him. Apparently "Bruce Lee," who was hiding in the mountain range between Veraguas and Chiriqui, surrendered to the U.S. military to avoid being captured by the new Public Force, thus enabling him to give his version of the crime.

Gonzalez could possibly be transferred to the capital today so he can make a statement to Attorney General Rogelio Cruz, who is currently investigating the guerrilla doctor's assassination.

Disrepect for Public Force Termed Not Advisable

PA0702012890 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 6 Feb 90 p A4

[Editorial: "The Demoralization of the Public Force"]

[Text] The disintegration of the Defense Forces and their replacement by an institution of a different nature has been debated extensively by the public. The Defense Forces and all of its members have been illegal since the 20 December U.S. invasion. We have an urgent need for an organization that is entirely devoted to protecting the people's lives and properties. A Public Force is being organized for this purpose, but it is to have a different philosophy. The majority of the people favor an institution that will protect the public, yet it should be removed from political activities, should not repress the people, should do without heavy weaponry, and should be completely professional. An attempt has been made to imitate Costa Rica's experience, where a belligerent army has not existed for more than 40 years.

There seems to be a consensus in favor creating a Public Force which would not have dangerous weapons. Nevertheless, we do not want to let our imagination fly. Despite the momentary euphoria, we think it is necessary to comment on the transformations underway.

Since 20 December, the people have been having the most bitter and sad experiences. The absence of a security organization that could operate with the desired effectiveness has left the Panamanian people in the hands of criminals—resulting in crimes, thefts, robberies, and all types of acts of vandalism. In the middle of this sad experience, it is necessary to assess the consequences of what has been done and what must and can be done. The resentment and even the justified hatred against the actions of a large number of members of the now defunct Defense Forces, particularly its highest leaders, have led us to express our feelings regarding an institution that had been created for other purposes, but which had been caught in the web of repression, crime, and slander. It is unwise, however, to let ourselves be carried away by the moment and confuse the repressive behavior of the members of the ex-Defense Forces with the the social protection objectives that led to its creation.

The level of demoralization of the ex-Defense Forces members, most of whom are now members of the Public Force, cannot be denied. The humiliating treatment to which they were subjected by the U.S. Army and the repudiation of the community have completely destroyed their sense of authority.

Today, the Public Force members are pitifully subject to the disrespect of their compatriots. Attention and respect are paid to U.S. Army members; however, we forget that sooner or later we will have to mingle with our own force. Amid insults and all sorts of accusations, the troops recruited into the new Public Force appear to be fearful of taking any kind of action. They have suffered a resounding fall regarding the authority that should surround a police agent. We have caused trauma in an institution that we need for our own protection.

There is another demoralizing aspect—the distrust of civilian employees. We cannot expect to have a sound and safe Public Force when we insult and weaken it with our distrust. We have forgotten that military men are trained in discipline and as such have to obey orders. To emotionally confuse what used to be the despicable conduct of their bosses with the goodness that might come out of an institution is not very advisable during a transition period like the one we are living in now. We need a respectable, reliable, strong, and professional Public Force. We cannot continue to subject the Public Force to the resentment we feel regarding the past, which was full of horror and misery. We must strengthen the Public Force so it can become united and feel that it is respected by the people. Let us stop being afraid of the tiger's skin after we have killed the tiger.

Arias Comments on Role of Public Force

PA0702013490 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Statement by Dr. Ricardo Arias Calderon, first vice president and government and justice minister, during a ceremony with Public Force officers, in Panama City on 2 February—recorded]

[Text] In the first days after 20 December 1989, President Endara, myself, and Vice President Ford made a historic decision, and as time passes, I am more certain that it was the correct decision. We decided to abolish once and for all the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] headed by General Noriega.

However, we opened the doors to all former FDP members who did not participate personally and directly in Noriega's crimes to join us in the task of creating the Public Force [FP]. This was recognition that you are full-time Panamanians and that you have the right to share the future with other Panamanians by providing the knowledge and capabilities earned in your personal and professional careers.

The youngest of my children went to school with the son of an officer of Noriega's FDP, an officer who is not here and has no right to be here. However, through my son I learned how the other child suffered. Thus, I understand what your families experienced as the drama and the tragedy of 20 December evolved. It is not easy to have lived through 20 December, as a civilian or as an man in uniform.

As a result, we are united by something that we have shared as a country—a great tragedy. If we realize that we all played our role in the same tragedy, and if we realize that no one stayed out of it, that no one benefited from the tragedy, but that we were all victims of the tragedy to some degree, if we realize this, there is a bond that becomes the starting point of what we do together.

What is it that we are doing together? We are creating a new FP. It will not be an army because the country does not want an army. One of the biggest paradoxes of the past is that an army was built in a country that could not pay for it, a country that did not have a social and human tradition to build an army. However, the army—built using national security as a pretext - brought more insecurity than we have ever experienced throughout our history.

The country needs security in defense of democracy, because it is the only system that allows us to live together with our differences, to not repress our differences or hate each other. Democracy is the best system suited for men within the framework of pluralism, diversity, and even its imperfections.

Accordingly, the country needs you and it demands your service. The country understands this today better than yesterday, and tomorrow it will understand this better than today. However, the country demands a service, not an army. The country wants service by professionals offering their fellow men security with respect for human rights, respect for law and order, and the defense of democracy. The aim of the executive branch was not to impose a preplanned organization. We do not have a foreign model to be imported. We have to seek and find a solution, a Panamanian solution, among Panamanians.

Major Villalaz 'Trying To Revive' Air Force

PA0702032090 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 2 Feb 90 p 1A

[Report by Migdalia Fuentes de Pineda]

[Text] Judging from research carried out by LA PRENSA, which was confirmed by a reliable source, Major Augusto Villalaz—who was appointed by the Government of National Reconstruction as the chief of the Air Service [Servicio Aereo]—far from being a custodian of property of the state air companies, is gathering up all the national air transportation equipment and trying to revive the Panamanian Air Force [FAP].

"You cannot teach an old dog new tricks," the source said, adding that the government entrusted Villalaz with organizing an air service that would be supervised by the U.S. Army, but this has not been the case. Up to now, the source added, the state air service has been pushed aside, as the organization chart prepared by Villalaz mainly emphasizes a summary of activities of the Public Force [FP] air service, but in practice the air service planes have already begun flying and identify themselves as FAP.

Some of the functions of the the FP air service are the following: Patrolling highways and urban areas; supporting police activities such as anti-narcotics and terrorism control; transportation of personnel; support to remote areas; surveillance of the territorial sea; control of fishing bans and illegal fishing by foreign boats; and supporting security along the borders, among others. Our source wonders: "What is the difference between this structure and that of the former FAP that had scandalous participation on 10 July 1987 [anti-Noriega demonstration crackdown known as "Black Friday"]?

In the area of operations, the air service chief is under the orders of the FP chief, as before. The organization chart includes control of communications in the country; surveillance of land transportation; the computer system; the supply service; the air medical services (granting its own licenses); and providing its own training courses in what is called professional improvement. However, according to our source, the most serious aspect of the issue is that it audited its own expenses—in other words, no one controls its expenditures.

To launch this "superstructure," the air transportation service of the FP has about 400 units that include—it was said—about 64 units that would handle 12 helicopters, more or less. According to the sources, the helicopters are the means of air transportation that require the fewest personnel, unless they are helicopter gunships, and—as far as we know—"we do not want to militarize the FP."

There are also plans for an administrative structure of 45 persons, and according to the source, those forming part of the FP are the same units who formed part of the FAP, yet "more and better."

At present, there are more than seven FP planes in flight, and—according to our source—these have not been authorized, and no one knows of the flight plans. The source added that the situation is worrisome, because precisely when Maj. Villalaz sought asylum in the United States, he charged that the FAP was conducting secret flights and that on several occasions its planes had been used to bring weapons from Cuba, which had been taken to secret places.

The statements made to the U.S. authorities were corroborated and served to show the relationship there was between the Armed Forces and the rebel groups. The entire structure of the FAP has begun operating for the FP air service, which currently has about 21 planes, some of which are being repaired and will someday be operative, according to the source.

The chief of the FP air service plans, directs, supervises, and coordinates all the activities of the air service and its chief is the representative before the FP leadership.

As for the planes, Villalaz recommends that some government institutions (MOP, IRHE, and MIDA) [Ministry of Public Works, Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification, and Agricultural Development Ministry] be given back the planes that belong to them. Practically all of them are in bad condition, but he reserves—for the FP air service—5 Aviocar 212's, 1 Islander DN-2, 1 CESSNA 206, and 12 Bell helicopters (UH-HN civilian version), among others.

Our source concluded by saying it is very difficult to think that a civilian air service is being formed with soldiers from the former FAP, who seek to regroup. If anyone does not believe this, the source stressed, just go to the hangar of the old Tocumen Airport, where you will see that the "FAP is not defunct, but rather pretends to be defunct."

Argentina

Government To Increase Armed Forces Budget

PY0602123690 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 5 Feb 90 p 7

[Text] (NA-DYN)—The government will increase the Armed Forces budget and allow the incorporation of more soldiers in order to bolster military units across the country, Defence Minister Humberto Romero told LA NACION daily.

In an interview published yesterday, Romero said that spiralling inflation was forcing the government to permanently update military funds, adding that the later should become a fixed percentage of the gross domestic product (GDP).

In this regard, he favoured the traditional figure of 1.2 percent of the GDP for the military budget rather than the latest allotment of barely 0.45 percent of the GDP.

Although the GDP has not been precisely calculated, economists set it at between 50-60 billion dollars, meaning that a military budget equivalent to 1.2 percent of the GDP could reach 700 million dollars.

Romero pointed out that more funds for the sector and larger troops would permit the military to stage a greater number of yearly exercises, while joint maneuvres between the three forces would be given top priority.

He explained that a privatization plan was under way within the defence area, and that the funds obtained in this way would be used to modernize the Armed Forces. Romero argued that the work of the military in the sector's productive industry would benefit the national economy.

The minister also insisted that inefficient companies operated by the military would be privatized" to strengthen those which are essential to national defence and which need more sophisticated equipment and greater access to technological advances."

Romero spoke to LA NACION reporters while on board the "Fragata Libertad" Navy training ship which last Saturday [3 February] participated in the launch of the XVI Sea Regatta.

The minister said these new plans for the Armed Forces would pave the way for "a new stage in relations between the political and military powers," which "will significantly contribute to the country's economic recovery."

For his part, President Carlos Menem said in La Rioja yesterday that "there are no problems" on the military front, adding that the change of defence ministers was "entirely and exclusively" a responsibility of the President.

"It's not possible for us to be thinking about military problems when we change a defence minister. On the contrary, we are trying to improve the area's image in order to reactivate everything connected with the economic aspect of companies in the sector, which is now controlled by Humberto Romero."

Menem claimed "we have never been so much at ease as now, except for those who see ghosts in some military officers who are touring the country but who evidently have no chance of making any sort of illegal moves."

On rumors of the departure of other Cabinet members following the resignation of former defense minister Italo Luder, Menem said these reports of this nature were "the product of the crisis situation" and accused "those who see their absurd and criminal business threatened" of being "rumor-mongers."

"Rumors are like forged currency: They are printed by criminals and circulated by honest people," said the President.

Intelligence Service Under Secretary Appointed

PY0602225390 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2000 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 6 Feb (TELAM) — It was reported at Government House today that Colonel Norberto Juan Chiappari has been appointed under secretary of the Intelligence Secretariat. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Foreign Minister's European Visit

WA0602123090

For reportage on Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo's European tour which includes Spain, France, and the FRG, see the 5 February West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Bolivia

Iturralde Comments on 15 Feb Drug Summit Agenda

PY0702005590 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 2 Feb 90 p 1

[Excerpts] The Bolivian Government will not discuss the matter of specific funds for the antidrug struggle during the Cartagena summit, but it will later hold bilateral negotiations with the United States, the world community, and international organizations.

This information was released yesterday by Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde who thus confirmed that in the 15 February meeting, the Bolivian, Peruvian, Colombian, and U.S. presidents will discuss the drug trafficking problem as a whole and will sign a "joint declaration" on the issue.

Iturralde termed the upcoming summit as very important because agreements will be reached in keeping with the political will of Jaime Paz Zamora, Virgilio Barco, George Bush, and Alan Garcia (if he decides to attend).

Iturralde said that this situation will prompt Bolivia to intensify its action on the international level so friendly countries and organizations can support Bolivian projects.

Although Iturralde did not specify the funds required by the Bolivian Government, it was learned in the past few weeks that it could amount to $600 million, an amount the international community will disburse if the negotiations succeed. [passage omitted]

Iturralde described as positive President Bush's announcement that before the end of February he will order the withdrawal from Panama of the military forces that ousted Manuel Antonio Noriega, the Panamanian strongman.

Iturralde said that Bush's decision responds to a firm and timely request made by the Bolivian Government.

Iturralde added that the request made by Bush to the U.S. Congress to increase cooperation with the Andean countries, including Bolivia, is good.

Brazil

Sarney Meets Uruguayan Counterpart in Corumba

PY0702111290 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Brazilian President Jose Sarney and Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti were in Corumba, Mato Grosso do Sul, today to witness the loading of the first shipment of manganese for Nueva Palmira, Uruguay, from which it will be shipped to Romania.

The 5,400-ton shipment was loaded at the Ladario port on the Paraguay river. During the ceremony, President Sarney said that the shipment is very important for Latin American integration. He said:

[Begin Sarney recording] Today we are beginning an effective process of integration with our Bolivian, Paraguayan, and Argentine brothers here in the Bacia do Prata region. This is the main export corridor for the wealth of our region. This engineering project is deeply rooted in the history and policies of our states. [end recording]

Sarney also said that he will send to the National Congress a temporary measure creating the CPE [Processing and Export Center] in Corumba.

[Begin Sarney recording] This is a historic moment for the region because the creation of the Corumba zone for processing and export is the fulfillment of a commitment that I made. I expected this bill to be approved last year but it is still in Congress. As I do not want to leave the government without implementing this law, I will order a temporary measure creating the zone for processing and export in Corumba. [end recording]

President Sarney said that, over the last few years, Latin American countries have taken firm steps to transform the continent into an integrated economic system ready to implement a joint economic plan. Sarney took this opportunity to say goodbye to outgoing President Julio Maria Sanguinetti as both presidents will soon transfer power to their successors.

Chile

Pinochet Approves Law Protecting His Actions

PY0502201790 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Constitutional Law No. 18.918, which regulates the activities of the National Congress, has been published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE. One of the transitory articles of this law states that the newly-elected congressmen will not be able hold the outgoing government responsible for its actions.

In permanent Article No. 32, the law states that any observation or veto by the president of the Republic of any draft bill or constitutional amendment approved by the national Congress will only be acceptable when it is directly related to the subject of the draft. The president of the house that proposes the draft will be the person who decides whether the objection is justified or not.

Regarding the budget law, the article states that this can only be opposed by the president of the Republic if he does not agree with one or more of its items.

The last article of the law states that it will take effect on 11 March 1990, that the transfer of power will take place on 11 March 1990 in the Honor Hall of the National Congress, and that President-elect Patricio Aylwin and outgoing President Augusto Pinochet will participate in the ceremony.

The law was approved by President Pinochet on 26 January 1990.

Announces Army Reorganization

PY0502192190 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Report by Eliana Enriquez]

[Excerpts] President Augusto Pinochet today announced the reorganization of the Army and the creation of a military region in Iquique. Pinochet made these announcements to the press after dedicating a health unit to assist destitute people which cost 109 million Chilean pesos. [passage omitted]

Pinochet said the Army reorganization will begin this year and will make better use of resources. He said that this reorganization does not foresee an increase in the number of Army personnel nor an increase in the Army budget.

Military sources have explained that the installation of the Army Corps is a matter of strategic coordination and that, as there is a Southern Military Region, a Northern Military Region will be created. [passage omitted]

Pinochet declined to comment on charges by Education Minister-designate Ricardo Lagos that the current transition process is hypocritical, adding that Lagos will be a good education minister.

[Begin recording] [Pinochet] What do I care about what Mr. Lagos says?

[Reporter] [Question indistinct].

[Pinochet] He will be a good education minister. What else do you want me to say? [end recording]

Pinochet added that he believes the transition process is very positive and that it is being implemented normally. The power is being transferred in a decent manner, not as it was in the past, he said. [passage omitted]

Visiting Presidents Required To Greet Pinochet

PY0502193590 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] The protocol director nominated by President-elect Patricio Aylwin has confirmed that the guests who do not greet President Pinochet upon arrival will not be allowed to attend the presidential inauguration ceremony in Congress.

Aylwin carried out various activities at his office this morning. He received Agriculture Minister-designate Juan Agustin Figueroa who said he hopes to have a defined wheat and seasonal workers policy by March. He also said he will strengthen organizations like the INDAP [Agriculture and Livestock Development Institute] and the SAG [Agriculture and Livestock Service].

Protocol director-designate Carlos Klammer reported that he met with Aylwin's cabinet chief Carlos Vascunan with whom he discussed general subjects. Klammer, however, confirmed one unexpected point.

[Begin recording] [Klammer] The visiting presidents who arrive on 10 March will greet President Pinochet at 1800.

[Reporter] Will those who arrive on 11 March be allowed to attend the inauguration ceremony in Congress?

[Klammer] Those who do not greet Pinochet will not attend the inauguration ceremony in Congress.

[Reporter] How many real career diplomats are there currently in the Chilean foreign service?

[Klammer] There are many, but not many as ambassadors.

[Reporter] How many ambassadors?

[Klammer] There currently are about 30 career ambassadors. [end recording]

Interview With President-Elect Patricio Aylwin

PY0502195090 Santiago APSI in Spanish 17-31 Jan 90 pp 20, 23

[Interview with President-elect Patricio Aylwin by Jorge Andres Richards; date and place not given; passages within slant lines are APSI editorial comments]

[Text] [Richards] There is a general impression that we are experiencing a very calm and orderly transition, as if nothing has happened and we are all friends. Are you not afraid people might think you will continue the same system; that nothing will change?

[Aylwin] No, I do not think we are giving that impression. I think the country has clearly stated it wants changes. The only question is whether those changes are achieved in a climate of confrontation or a spirit of harmony and reconciliation. To make this harmonious option possible, we have to work with the system. I have tried to do just that. But there are difficulties.

[Richards] For example?

[Aylwin] We have advanced in some areas of the transition in line with plans drawn up with the government, but we are running into serious problems in others. For instance, legislation in the administrative area is tying our hands. Ministers will not even be able to appoint their secretaries or drivers, not to mention trusted people, as assistants.

[Richards] How will that be arranged?

[Aylwin] I expect to solve the problem with an emergency law I will send to Congress as soon as I take over. I do not think anyone can deny a government the support for changes it deems indispensable for efficient operations.

[Richards] Have you discussed this with the present authorities?

[Aylwin] We have discussed this and many other things. For instance, the government is currently working hard to approve—in addition to the bills we have talked about—laws reorganizing CODELCO [Copper Corporation], privatizing the State Bank, and reorganizing the education system and the justice department. We strongly oppose the approval of these laws at this time. We think these laws should be discussed by the future Congress at the national level. The Government Junta was approving a bill on the education system at the same time we were talking. But there is something else: We are alarmed at the number of people the Foreign Ministry is assigning to different positions abroad. These appointments will be effective in a few days and will deplete the budget allocations for that area. Besides, these designations do not make sense at this time.

[Richards] Have you talked to the government about this?

[Aylwin] I have told the government that if they go ahead with the idea, I will denounce it to the country as a scandal.

[Richards] What will you do if the government goes ahead and approves the laws on CODELCO, the State Bank, and the justice department?

[Aylwin] I will also denounce this as a scandal. I have also told the present authorities that any legislative action regarding the prerogatives of the future president would be unacceptable: an offense to the dignity of the president-elect and a denial of the people's will. I have been elected by the people and the electoral tribunal has recognized my victory. I therefore think the government's attempts to change laws at the last minute are unacceptable.

[Richards] What do you think about the regime's designation of senators?

[Aylwin] I share the opinion of those who believe the present Constitution does not allow the government to make those designations, but I fully endorse the vote of Luis Maldonado, Supreme Court and Constitutional Tribunal president. However, I think the designation of senators has not been appropriate, or at least not courteous. I hope they will not join the opposition. I am not asking them to support the government either. I will probably have no reason to trust some of them. However, I expect that the majority will be objective enough to support broadly accepted and just bills.

[Richards] Do you feel like your hands are tied?

[Aylwin] Not tied so much. I feel a little hindered /pauses and laughs/ but I think I have the capacity to maneuver /laughs again/.

[Richards] Do you mean arm twisting [munequeo]?

[Aylwin] I do not like to speak of arm-twisting...I would rather speak of maneuvering, negotiating, and seeking consensus.

[Richards] It has been noted that you have treated some Armed Forces commanders differently. Stange and Matthei have been asked to remain at their posts, but Pinochet and Merino were asked to leave.

[Aylwin] I think the country has a clear opinion of the role each one has played during this stage and, consequently, what role they could play in the future. I think my attitude represents the people's feeling on the subject.

[Richards] What I want to know is why you asked two of them (Matthei and Stange) to remain at their posts and why you rejected the other two (Pinochet and Merino).

[Aylwin] Let me clarify that. I think Pinochet represents the regime that the country has repudiated. I have said that Pinochet—whatever our opinion of his administration—is a politician who has essentially acted as a politician over the past 16 years. He has exercised the overall power and his name divides Chileans. I do not think a man commanding one of the branches of our Armed Forces—which represent the nation as a whole—should have those characteristics.

[Richards] But Pinochet said he will continue as Army commander in chief even after you asked him to leave. How will you handle the problem?

[Aylwin] You know and the country knows that, according to our Constitution, he can stay, and I do not have the power to dismiss him.

[Richards] How will you resolve the problem?

[Aylwin] I think the issue will be resolved naturally through the exercise of the president's constitutional prerogatives, which will subordinate General Pinochet—if he wants to stay on as Army commander in chief—to the president and the Ministry of Defense.

[Richards] But will you feel comfortable with such an arrangement?

[Aylwin] When you take over as president, you are not looking for comfortable positions. I think he will have more comfort problems than I will.

[Richards] Is it true that you talked about salmon and fishing with Admiral Merino?

[Aylwin] Yes, and many other things too.

[Richards] Why was the meeting so short? (It lasted only 12 minutes.)

[Aylwin] He said it was a protocol visit and that he was conveying the Navy's greetings. He introduced me to our admirals and anticipated that "some of us will leave, while others will stay with you." With this comment he immediately clarified the issue of his resignation and we were able to take the item off the agenda. We talked about the Navy; about my forefathers in the Navy...

[Richards] Excuse me, but 12 minutes is not enough time for all that.

[Aylwin] /Bursting into laughter/ It was a rather fast conversation.

[Richards] Why then did the admiral leave in such a bleak mood, not wanting to talk to reporters?

[Aylwin] He has days and hours in which he makes declarations... He said he would do it in the afternoon. Remember, it was Tuesday when he visited me.

[Richards] Why will Matthei stay?

[Aylwin] I think Matthei has acted independently and I received information that the Air Force wants him to stay.

[Richards] Did Matthei's attitude on 5 October 1988, when he recognized the victory of the no-vote before the official announcement, affect your decision?

[Aylwin] There are many aspects and attitudes that help you form an opinion of a person. General Matthei's attitudes make me think he will be a favorable element of continuity in the process we are experiencing.

[Richards] Your cabinet has been described as Christian Democrat-Socialist. There are 10 Christian Democrats and six Socialists, with some additions...

[Aylwin] There are only nine Christian Democrats, because [Housing and Urban Development Minister] Alberto Etchegaray is not a Christian Democrat nor a PDC [Christian Democratic Party] sympathizer; he is definitely an independent.

[Richards] And a churchman?

[Aylwin] He is clearly a churchman. But this is not why I chose him; I chose him for his specific qualifications for the post. I must also note his social sensibility, as demonstrated in the union and church fields.

[Richards] Let us continue with the cabinet.

[Aylwin] I believe it is unfair to describe it as a PDC-PS [Socialist Party] cabinet. I am committed to giving the country a government that reflects the spirit of what we offered; a government with a great sense of nation that can consolidate the Coalition of Parties for Democracy as a stable entity, capable of providing a permanent base of government. I must take the electoral results within the coalition of parties as a reference point: The voting established the PDC as the most representative party, followed by the Socialists, the Radicals, and others. It seemed to me that this situation should be reflected. I would have liked to put all of them on the ministerial team but there isn't room for everybody. Nevertheless, I believe this is an homogeneous, pluralist group that reflects the range of the party coalition. I expect that those sectors not represented in the cabinet will occupy other administrative posts so all of them feel committed to the task.

[Richards] At any rate, the result is a center-left cabinet.

[Aylwin] Yes.

[Richards] Will this be a permanent coalition to give the country stability beyond the four-year term?

[Aylwin] I have never concealed that my great wish—in keeping with the vision of this country's history—is for a great coalition of forces ranging from the center-right to the left. But I cannot predict what will happen four years from now. Let's hope the coalition will continue.

[Richards] How will it make room for the right?

[Aylwin] I believe the electoral representation of the rightist sector in our group, the PAC [Liberal Centrist Alliance Party], was small in comparison to other sectors of the right. The information I have—and it seems logical to me—is that part of the rightist vote that was not for the Democracy and Progress pact, that supported Errazuriz, can strengthen the PAC, thus supporting us and gaining greater political-electoral weight in the future. On the other hand, given the spirit in which I formed the government and the propositions made by the National Renewal Party [PRN] and particularly the UDI [Independent Democratic Union]—it may seem paradoxical, but that is how it is—I have not dismissed the possibility of reaching agreements, not on governing, because they are in the opposition, but on passing some laws that benefit the nation with their support.

[Richards] Are you going to undertake efforts in that direction?

[Aylwin] Of course I will.

[Richards] What do you think about PRN President Sergio Onofre Jarpa's criticism that strategic ministries—education, economy, and the government's General Secretariat—are occupied by Socialists?

[Aylwin] All ministries are strategic: Interior is strategic, defense is strategic, finance is strategic. All of them are. The assessment made by my friend Sergio Onofre Jarpa seems whimsical.

[Richards] What would you say to him?

[Aylwin] I believe his tongue was loose.

[Richards] In seeking consensus, some believe that important matters have been forgotten, such as human rights, repression victims, and political and missing prisoners.

[Aylwin] I can tell you that I have not forgotten such matters. I am deeply concerned about them. In the coalition's program we committed ourselves to giving those topics priority treatment. I do not believe I should try to anticipate the concrete steps that will be taken. The general guidelines are stated in that program and the country can rest assured we will fulfill our promises and approach those problems very seriously, seeking just and realistic formulas and listening to the affected sectors.

[Richards] Are you planning to meet with those sectors?

[Aylwin] Yes, I will meet with them and my team is already working on this.

[Richards] There are human rights advocates who believe this problem can be included in the negotiations.

[Aylwin] I don't like the word negotiate; I would rather say seeking understandings. I believe we can find solutions on this topic that, although not fully satisfying the aspirations of each sector, will be acceptable to the large majority and will promote consensus. I believe this is my job.

[Richards] Do you still think that truth and justice should exist in this country?

[Aylwin] Obviously. This is not something that can be said before the elections and ignored later. I didn't say anything before the elections that was aimed purely at attracting votes. Whether it was popular or unpopular, I said it because I believed something must be done. I still think there should be truth and justice in this country.

[Richards] Will you reopen the Letelier case?

[Aylwin] Of course. I believe it is our country's duty, and we have said so, to activate the appropriate mechanisms toward ferreting out the truth of what happened in the Letelier case.

[Richards] Will you meet with Pinochet again before taking office?

[Aylwin] No other meeting has been scheduled. Unless some circumstance makes it necessary, I have the impression there will not be another meeting.

[Richards] Can you explain why you look so formal and serious in all the pictures of your meeting with Pinochet?

[Aylwin] I believe the circumstances called for me to demonstrate the seriousness of the occasion, which was not exactly a joyous one.

Silva Comments on Cuba, Relations With U.S.

PY0602000590 Santiago COSAS in Spanish 16 Jan 90 pp 8-10

[Interview with Foreign Minister-designate Enrique Silva Cimma by Angelica Arndt; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Arndt] Talking about the "free world," do you wish to resume diplomatic relations with the USSR? Do you also consider it important to maintain diplomatic relations with Cuba?

[Silva] Patricio Aylwin's position in this regard has been categoric and he has made explicit remarks on the subject. Moreover, the government program of the Coalition of Parties for Democracy [CPPD] clearly states that it will seek to maintain relations with all the countries of the world with some defined exceptions—specifically referring to not severing, but rather reviewing the case of South Africa. In general terms this means we will step up our relations with the socialist countries—particularly after the political changes that have taken place in Eastern Europe—if we are to promote Chilean trade and cultural ties. Therefore, there is no doubt that these relations must be strengthened. In the case of Cuba, Patricio Aylwin has said "we will see about this later," because we will have to determine Cuba's situation regarding Latin America, specifically, regarding the Southern Cone following the charges of its attempt to "export" the revolution. But there is also the possibility of maintaining relations at a consular level, considering the large number of Chileans living in Cuba and the links that we must try to normalize.

[Arndt] You talk about charges, but the great number of Cuban revolutionaries that came to Chile during Allende's government have set an important precedent.

[Silva] This is why I have been as clear as possible and said that Cuba's case will be reviewed later.

[Arndt] As you have said, our relations with neighboring countries is a priority issue. Integration with Argentina as established in the peace treaty is making slow progress, we have had serious problems with Peru which has closed its border with Chile, and Bolivia continues to insist on its demand for an outlet to the sea. How important does your government consider these issues?

[Silva] I am under the impression that all these problems will be solved harmoniously as soon as our country definitely returns to a democratic system and opens its doors to the free world. A relationship between equals is much smoother than one between an authoritarian regime and one that has rejected that type of regime. In this manner we will try to conclude the process begun with Argentina and all the small subtle issues still pending within the context of the implementation of the peace treaty, such as the opening toward the Pacific which is in both countries' interest, in the hopes to find a prompt solution. The closing of the Peruvian border with Chile is, undoubtedly, a problem that must be overcome. We are dealing with governments that are expressing their best intentions to contribute to the advent of democracy in Chile. We have lived for many years without being heard but this does not mean that all of a sudden we are going to become champions of regional positions since we have no right to do so. Regarding Bolivia, I would say that rather than an ambition, it is a proposal made by the Bolivian Government which has repeatedly stated it is an aspiration they regard as justified.

When two countries are bound by treaties that cannot be modified we should really seek harmonious relations that would imply a real solution to Bolivia's landlocked situation. [passage omitted]

[Arndt] Formally speaking, relations with the United States are normal. However, from the commercial point of view our relations are threatened by U.S. protectionist policy, such as the case of fruit exports; and from the political point of view they are cold because of the Letelier case and Kennedy amendment. I want to remind you that when the situation with Argentine was serious our Armed Forces considered the Kennedy amendment highly damaging for Chile. How do you intend to tackle these problems?

[Silva] During Patricio Aylwin's government, the Foreign Ministry will focus on all these problems calmly. You may rest assured that we will seek an absolutely cautious approach to all these problems, and without being spectacular we will avoid any cool relations. [passage omitted]

Resumption of Socialist Country Ties Analyzed

*PY0502221590 Santiago HOY in Spanish
15-21 Jan 90 pp 52-54*

[Report by Edith Flores L.]

[Excerpts] Maybe it was a coincidence, but on 8 November—just one day before the fall of the Berlin Wall—Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz said that the military government was considering reestablishing relations with the USSR.

This is undoubtedly a step forward, but the success was only partial because even though they have been very willing to receive delegations and discuss exchanges, the USSR and other Socialist countries have decided to designate ambassadors after the inauguration of the democratic government in Chile.

HOY has learned that the opposition coalition, through the Socialist Country Committee that is headed by Guillermo Zavala, has arranged for the reestablishment of relations as soon as President-elect Aylwin is installed. The brothers Boris and Mladen Yopo, Osvaldo Puccio, Gregorio Navarrete, and Francisco Fernandez have also worked for the committee. With the occasional help of other people, the committee has worked for several months on the future policy toward Socialist countries and has begun establishing actual links. In regular trips to Buenos Aires, the members of the committee met with the ambassadors of the European Socialist countries to sound them out and collect information.

The members of the committee also met with delegations who came to Chile to observe the Chilean process. Despite the fact that most of these academicians, journalists, and commercial missions were invited by the opposition, they also met with rightist leaders. A Bulgarian and an East German delegation also made contact with the Foreign Ministry.

The Socialist Country Committee has also made informal contacts and exchanged information with the Foreign Ministry. Both the opposition coalition (which needed to know about the current status of relations), and the Foreign Ministry (which only has obsolete sources of information after the long lethargy) needed information on the subject. [passage omitted]

Not all Socialist countries have adopted the same approach to the issue. Last week, a delegation headed by Luis Winter reached separate agreements on the exchange of ambassadors with Hungary and with Poland for implementation "in the near future." Errazuriz has said that the ambassadors will be designated by the new government.

The reestablishment of relations will take into account Chilean interests. This means that the talks have already considered areas the new foreign friends will emphasize.

For example, the USSR wants to reach an accord on fishing, on the provision of supplies to ships, on the repair of ships at sea, and on the replacement of crews. This country also wishes to purchase minerals (copper and nonferrous metals), lumber, and clothing. In return the USSR will sell us LADA cars; which have been available for some time in Chile; textile industry equipment; and heavy machinery.

The Soviet economic opening has been driven by perestroyka and by the USSR's urgent need for supplies. In this regard, Chilean exports to the USSR may help reduce the long lines of Soviets who wait to buy basic commodities.

Hungary and the CSSR have already said they want to buy Chilean fruit. The GDR is interested in the progress that some of our enterprises have achieved in the data processing field. In return the GDR will provide optical industrial know-how, which in turn would open a new market for GDR products.

The USSR is the only country which has thus far mentioned fields other than trade or tourism. In the cultural field, educational exchanges are being considered, as well as participation of Chilean moviemakers in Soviet movie festivals and, obviously, the opening of Chilean movie theaters to films which are known worldwide but which have never been allowed into Chile.

Arms Sales to Iran, Related Events Disclosed

*PY0602214390 Santiago HOY in Spanish
29 Jan-4 Feb 90 pp 43-46*

[Report by Guillermo Villarroel E.]

[Text] Bernard Stroiazzo looked up at an F-4 Phantom overflying a test site in the Iranian desert. It was 1986 and the matter was crucial: Testing the cluster bombs purchased from the Chilean Ferrimar [expansion unknown] and FAMAE [Army Ordnance] enterprises.

The pilot released the first bomb. It exploded in the air very near the plane. The second bomb failed even more seriously because it exploded upon release, hitting the plane in several places. The two pilots were forced to eject. One of them was very important: he was the commander of the Iranian Air Force.

The Phantom crashed near the test site, the test failed, and the future of the war against Iraq—a country which Chilean businessman Carlos Cardoen was already supplying with cluster bombs—was consequently at stake. Threatening guards took Bernard Stroiazzo Mougin, a French industrial engineer, hostage. Stroiazzo had coordinated the deal between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the two Chilean Government enterprises.

Three years later, in December 1989—while having dinner with the author of this article—Stroiazzo recalled that episode with sadness.

He stressed: "I am not an arms trafficker." He dresses impeccably, is 45-50 years old, is tanned by the Middle East sun, has light brown hair, and speaks Spanish with an accent.

His complex story is known in Chile as the "Iran-CORFO" [Production Development Corporation] affair. Stroiazzo, who was holding a 17-page document that 48 hours later he would file as a lawsuit against CORFO, agreed to recount his story.

Stroiazzo enjoyed the confidence of the Iranian Government. He was one of the top professionals of the National Iranian Oil Company. During a trip to Spain, he was contacted by a Chilean secret police agent who identified himself as Fernando Perez. This agent proposed a deal: to act as middleman in the sale of cluster bombs.

The proposal was attractive. Chilean arms sales had for years surpassed $100 million annually. Stroiazzo accepted and decided that Spanco S.A., a Swiss firm over which he presided, would arrange the deal.

On 25 January, the Carlos Cardoen plant in Iquique blew up, killing 30 people. That was a good moment for negotiations with Iran because the source that was supplying Iraq was having problems.

What the Arabs did not know was that the bombs, which cost $3,000 each in Chile, would cost them $14,000 each. Stroiazzo liked the idea of the large profits and coordinated the first shipment. The money followed the Madrid-Switzerland route.

The plane carrying the cluster bombs flew along a special corridor near Azerbaijan, in the middle of the war. It arrived safely at Iran's Bandar Abbas airport. The first test was performed in February. The buyers were not aware that the Ferrimar bomb deal would cause heated controversy.

Years earlier, businessman Carlos Cardoen charged Ferrimar with violating Article 19 of Law 958 on patents. This gave rise to a long trial. Cardoen charged Ferrimar with having stolen the plans of the bomb. Be that as it may, with the cooperation of Army officer and engineer Carlos Carreno and of FAMAE, the company succeeded in developing a 227-kg cluster bomb that was effective over an area of 60,000 square meters. Its explosions were timed over a period of 30 to 72 hours after being dropped, thus mining vast areas.

The detonator did not work well, however, and the bombs exploded as soon as they were released from the plane, thereby endangering the plane and the pilot. This had happened with a Hawker Hunter over the Chilean desert, barely escaping disaster.

A French technician made the appropriate corrections and the Iranians, although disgusted, gave a second chance to Stroiazzo who then traveled to Chile. The secret police contact, Fernando Perez, tried at that time to sell the defective bombs to Iraq but the negotiation failed. A second shipment of bombs from Chile arrived in Iran on 29 June 1986. They were tested, using the Phantom, and Bernard Stroiazzo saw all his doors suddenly close. He had become a hostage and his life was spared only because the Iranians have known him for some time. Two Chileans, an engineer and an explosives technician were also held hostage.

Eighteen months later, after canceling a $42-million order from the Iranian Government, the French engineer was allowed to leave Iran and return to Chile. The French engineer's son, David, remained as a guarantee and was only taken out of the country by his father with the help of friends after a lengthy ordeal.

On 24 March 1987, FAMAE Manager Carlos Carreno sent a telex to Mr. Ahmedi of the London branch of the National Iranian Oil Company—which was using a reserved account for the arms purchases—naming B. Van Meer as his "approved agent" and stating that FAMAE was not an export company and that the deal had to be done through Ferrimar.

Carreno said in the note that all the materiel had been tested and approved and that it carried the guarantee of the government through FAMAE. The note also said: We understand from our negotiations that you have accepted the arrangements for payment and that the deal will be closed very soon.

What had happened? Carreno and other high-ranking officials, including CNI [National Information Center] Director Brigadier General Hugo Salas, had offered to replace the lost Phantom plane with a U.S.-made F-5. They also offered to sell them another 15 F-5s and FAMAE-manufactured acoustic submarine mines.

The negotiation was well on course even though Chile had to set up a covert operation to conclude the deal. At the end of August Carreno—who by this time had become FAMAE deputy director—was ready to travel to Iran when he was kidnapped on 1 September 1987

The extreme left was blamed for the kidnapping. No one knew anything about Carreno's whereabouts for 92 days until he reappeared in good health in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The deal with Iran was frozen.

At this point Bernard Stroiazzo decided to seek new ways to recover from his physical and economic misfortunes. He found an opportunity in July 1988 when CNI Director Hugo Salas invited him to visit the country "during the week of 16-20 August...to consider issues of mutual interest." The telegram had Salas' handwritten signature.

Salas and Stroiazzo reached an agreement: they would seek a solution to compensate the French "without affecting Chilean Government funds." They found something almost as good as the arms deal and equally polemical: the business of toxic waste disposal.

The two quickly figured that the plant to recycle toxic wastes in Pisagua could process 7.5 million tons of waste in five years and yield the astronomical profit of $494,209,487.

With that in mind—in accordance with a lawsuit filed in Santiago's 19th Civil District Court—Stroiazzo submitted an application to CORFO as president of the British firm World Energy Recycling Enterprise, better know for its acronym WERE S.A., asking the government development corporation to grant him the respective concession.

WERE's Chilean representative Cesar Hidalgo (a National Vanguard Party follower) acted as representive for both sides. According to copies in his files, he had previously negotiated an agreement between WERE and the Chilean Government. The existence of this early agreement was recognized in Santiago by CORFO vice president Brigadier Guillermo Letelier on 25 January. But Letelier denied any connection with the case of the bombs sale to Iran.

The early agreement, signed by Colonel Guillermo Letelier and Bernard Stroiazzo on 22 December 1988, allowed WERE "to bring toxic and nontoxic material—with the exception of nuclear wastes—into the country; to unload and transport the cargoes through national territory; to process and reduce the waste in an industrial plant; and to store what could not be reduced."

The French decided to take the risk. They invested over $1 million in studies with large and powerful firms like Phillip Hollmann of Germany; 3M Company, Florida Power and Light, and Basic Environmental Engineering of the United States; and Compagnie General Des-Eaux and Socotec International of France.

Many previous technical steps delayed the visit of the international experts commission and the signing of the contract between WERE and the Foreign Investments Committee. They were finally approved through Decree Law 600. These steps were required by the Chilean Government before it could grant final approval to the project. This is why the original deadline of April 1989 for concluding the deal could not be fulfilled.

Stroiazzo had already noted the hostility to his project during the 5 October 1988 plebiscite. This hostility became more evident when negotiations became frozen and the 1989 election approached.

Stroiazzo returned to Chile in December. On 4 December, during a dinner with a Spanish adviser at the Sheraton Hotel, Stroiazzo decided to file a multimillion dollar suit against CORFO in the Chilean courts.

Unofficial government sources, and some military men, went to see him immediately after his decision. They offered him a final $5 million settlement.

We have not come to Chile seeking a Christmas present, we do not want charity, the foreigners answered. Attorney Jorge Ovalle, their legal counsel in the lawsuit, convinced them not to talk to the press, however.

One week later they left town following a warning that "their lives were in danger." When they arrived in Chile they were warned "their presence here was particularly uncomfortable at the time."

A lawyer went to negotiate with them in Europe after Patricio Aylwin's election victory. The talks were long but inconclusive. Stroiazzo then decided to speak. He revealed the content of the lawsuit and some secret documents. HOY was able to obtain some of them.

The scandal exploded on 19 January. Radio and press reports immediately labeled it the "Iran-CORFO" affair. On 24 January Minister-delegate Rene Abeliuk, CORFO vice president, confirmed from La Moneda that there was a link between the business of the cluster bombs and the toxic waste. "Ask Minister Letelier," Abeliuk said.

The next day Letelier denied all knowledge of the bomb affairs. A surprised Defense Minister Patricio Carvajal also reacted with: "Sales of what?," and "to whom?"

Carlos Cardoen, who had recently arrived from the Soviet Union, maintained a cautious silence.

CORFO authorities said only that they were not notified of the lawsuit. That is true because the lawsuit had been shelved in a drawer in the fifth floor of 1409 Huerfanos Street in Santiago. Did the parties expect to solve the problem out of court? Perhaps. What is true is that the lid of the "Iran-CORFO" pot is only beginning to come off.

A hot paragraph on page nine of the lawsuit reads: "The previous project—the name of which we will not mention—as well as the present project were intended to pay for damages caused by breach of contract. They had the approval and the support of the highest government levels, including that of the Army commander in chief."

Total Number of UDI Deputies Increases to 13

PY0502211090 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 25 Jan 90 p C-4

[Summary] Independent Deputies-elect Juan Masferrer and Victor Perez, representing Districts 34 and 47 respectively, officially joined the Independent Democratic Union [UDI] on 24 January. The total number of representatives the UDI will have in the new Chamber of Deputies will increase from 11 to 13.

Aeroflot Obtains Permission To Fly Into Country

PY0502114990 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2028 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Santiago, 4 Feb (EFE)—The newspaper LA EPOCA today reported that the Soviet airline Aeroflot obtained permission from General Pinochet's regime to operate a weekly flight between Moscow and Santiago.

Permission was obtained by a Soviet delegation that remained in Chile for 5 days and headed by Vassili Fedorin, Aeroflot manager for Latin America.

The Aeroflot delegation met with Chilean Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz and with authorities of the Chilean Aeronautics Directorate and the Civil Aeronautics Council.

The Soviet airline delegation also signed three mutual cooperation contracts with LAN-Chile [National Airlines], which was privatized last year and which served as Aeroflot agent in Chile.

Vassili Fedorin said that Aeroflot ticket prices "will be neither cheaper nor more expensive than those offered in the market."

Aeroflot operated in Chile from 1970 to 1973 but this service was interrupted after Chile and Moscow broke diplomatic relations following the 1973 military coup in which socialist President Salvador Allende was ousted.

Japanese Vessels Spotted Fishing Illegally

PY0602002890 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 26 Jan 90 p 13

[Excerpt] Punta Arenas—Ships from the Chilean Antarctic fleet have seen five huge Japanese vessels fishing in Chilean territorial waters without authorization.

This information was released to LA TERCERA DE LA HORA by Rear Admiral Eduardo Oelkers, commander of the 3rd Naval Zone, who gave details on this illegal invasion of Chilean territorial waters which has been denounced by Antarctic Fleet Commander Enrique Caselli.

Oelkers said that the five "huge" vessels were seen fishing for cod, krill, and other Antarctic fish species near the "Shetland del Sur" Islands located between the "Nelson" Strait and the "Elefantes" Islands. [passage omitted]

* Ominami, Boeninger on Economy, New Government

* Economic Program Outlined

90ET0089A Santiago ERCILLA in Spanish 20 Dec 89 pp 19-21

[Interview with Economy Minister-Designate Carlos Ominami conducted on 15 December by Andres Adler: "Privatizations Will Be Honored"; place not given; first three paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] He is a vice president of the Party for Democracy (PPD) and a member of the Central Committee of the Socialist Party-Arrate Faction [PS-Arrate]. Throughout the presidential campaign he acted as deputy coordinator of the economic program of the CPPD [Coalition of Parties for Democracy]. He is a commercial engineer who graduated from the University of Chile. During his exile in France he obtained a doctorate in economics. With all of these qualifications it is very probable that after next March Carlos Ominami will be minister of economy in the Patricio Aylwin cabinet.

With the fatigue of the long election day of 14 December marked on his face and a taste of disappointment showing for the failure of Ricardo Lagos, the leader of the PPD, to win in the electoral district of Santiago Poniente [West Santiago], Ominami talked with ERCILLA on 15 December.

Asked about the reaction of economic interests on 15 December—a rise in the stock market and stability in the parallel rate of the U.S. dollar—he said: "This does not surprise me. The economic interests had taken into account some time ago the fact that the CPPD was winning and that we have a program which best assures the stability of democracy, as well as the preservation of those positive things which have been successfully accomplished during the past few years."

[ERCILLA] What do you expect from the business sector at present?

[Ominami] That it will continue doing the same thing that it has been doing for the past 2 years. That is, increasing investments and exports. I would add to that the need to make an effort, which in fact it is making, to show greater pragmatism in adjusting to the very important change which the country has undergone. As a result of this greater pragmatism, there should be an understanding which will make it possible to make cooperation between workers and employers a reality.

[ERCILLA] In what terms should this kind of agreement be framed?

[Ominami] The ideal would be something that would refer to three major themes. The first would be the reform, based on a consensus, of labor legislation, in which the rights of the workers would be recognized in the field of collective bargaining, in the exercise of the right to strike, and in trade union organization itself. Then there should be an agreement among the business sectors in a broad sense. That is, not only involving big business but also small and medium-sized business, with regard to the minimum wage. Thirdly, the establishment of a mechanism for permanent, social cooperation, so that this whole period will be based on a dialogue and an agreement on the most substantive matters between labor and management.

[ERCILLA] What will be the framework for the reform of labor legislation which you will be supporting? It has been stated that what appears in the CPPD program document will be only the beginning and that the final proposal will go further than that.

[Ominami] The framework is what appears in the document. That has been agreed on with the CUT [United Labor Federation] and also has been approved by the CDT [Workers Democratic Federation]. What we have been doing in the last few months has been aimed in two directions: deepening the coverage of these agreements with the trade union movement and seeking to associate the business sector with this type of agreement. This has involved seeking negotiations which will make it possible to arrive finally at a consensus.

[ERCILLA] For example, on the subject of mandatory payment of union dues?

[Ominami] Naturally, the payment of dues should be mandatory for all members of an organization and also for those who, although not members, benefit directly from collective bargaining agreements negotiated by the trade unions. From that point of view we would be accepting the concept of mandatory payment of union dues.

[ERCILLA] And what about the right to strike and negotiations going beyond individual business firms?

[Ominami] In terms of collective bargaining negotiations we have said two things: that it seems very important to us to broaden the scope and the content of such negotiations; that there are other subjects, such as vocational training. On the other hand, the scope of the negotiations could be broadened. What we have said here is that it seems to us that workers must be included in the area of economic freedom, lifting the restrictions which now lie on them regarding negotiations going beyond the scope of individual business firms. However, given the conditions of the Chilean economy, we are opposed to the proposal under which it would be necessary to carry on industry-wide negotiations covering each branch of the economy.

[ERCILLA] Is there something more definite which you could say regarding the situation concerning some specific labor sectors, such as those related to the export of perishable products?

[Ominami] We have been working in that direction. We do not think that it would be right for strikes to be possible in the port or fruit growing sectors which could threaten export shipments when they are under way.

[ERCILLA] Is the announcement by some labor organizations that a truce of 1 year should be established in order not to "make waves" for the CPPD government the result of negotiations to this effect or something similar to that?

[Ominami] I believe that the CUT has made a very solid commitment to democratic stability. They realize that any break in the necessary gradualness of the social program would mean endangering this democratic stability.

[ERCILLA] The labor organizations have pointed to the urgency of raising the minimum wage level. What is the situation in this respect?

[Ominami] There are basically two things to say about this. A commitment by the future government to raise the minimum wage....

[ERCILLA] To what level?

[Ominami] We are not going to give any specific figure until the new government is in office and formal discussions have been held with labor and management. We are encouraging the search for a consensus in that field. What the government would do is to approve formally the agreement which both labor and management reached. That would be the ideal outcome.

[ERCILLA] How substantial would the increase be over the present level?

[Ominami] We think that there is going to be a really substantial increase. We have to be very careful not to take a step which could ultimately be negative from the point of view of the employment situation and the operation of a whole sector of small enterprise, for which the issue of the minimum wage is particularly relevant.

[ERCILLA] What is new regarding tax reform?

[Ominami] We do not yet have any specific announcement to make. A discussion is going on regarding exactly what the rate should be and whether it is going to be closer to 15 or to 20 percent.

[ERCILLA] And what does the adoption of either level depend on?

[Ominami] That will be closely related to the studies now under way, aimed at evaluating exactly what are going to be the requirements of increased tax collection to make it possible to finance social programs properly.

[ERCILLA] Regarding social expenditures, how do you see the problem of satisfying short-term expectations regarding social demands?

[Ominami] We have discussed this matter at length. The campaign we carried out was extremely careful from the point of view of practical commitments. It has been an educational campaign, presenting very clearly to the country the view that it is not possible to resolve everything at the same time and that it is necessary to set priorities. I think that the workers and the poorest sectors have their hopes set on the CPPD. However, they understand that those hopes will have to be realized gradually. Our commitment is to spare no effort to resolve those problems, as far as possible.

[ERCILLA] Regarding the privatization program. How will you handle those which took place before the plebiscite in October 1988 and those which took place afterwards?

[Ominami] From the economic point of view, it is essential to stabilize property in Chile. This is a key element within the framework of economic stability in the country. To the extent that situations have arisen which are not very clear, it is absolutely proper and even necessary for the objective of stabilizing property that such presumed irregularities be investigated. That is a matter which is more for the lawyers than for the economists to handle.

[ERCILLA] Consequently, this is not a basic question?

[Ominami] We are not opposed in principle to all privatizations. If we had been in the government, no doubt there are companies which we would not have privatized.

[ERCILLA] And what will happen to them?

[Ominami] As we understand that economic stability is of such fundamental importance in Chile, we are inclined to keep them in the private sector and to understand that this will finally be good for the country. This includes those companies which we would not have agreed to privatize. From my point of view the benefits from the transfer of those companies from the private to the public sector do not compensate for the negative effects that such a situation would bring.

[ERCILLA] I would like to mention a specific case of privatization which took place after 5 October 1988: LanChile. What is your position in this respect?

[Ominami] In effect, this is a special case. It seems to me to be a good idea for a company which had many problems to have private capital contributions made to it. The new president of the company has said that it seemed absolutely reasonable to him that if accusations were made of irregularities during the process of privatization, these should be investigated. The concept of a strategic enterprise has evolved very quickly, and I am not convinced that LanChile is a strategic enterprise. However, on the other hand, it seems to me that what was announced 48 hours before the recent elections regarding the privatization of Colbun Machicura was extremely bad.

[ERCILLA] Why?

[Ominami] It had two negative effects. It deprived the public sector of a rather limited instrument for intervention in an area which has traditionally been under public control, namely, electric utilities. Furthermore, this action turned over to Corfo [Production Development Corporation] the debt which Colbun Machicura owes to the Inter-American Development Bank [IDB]. As a result, this complicates and limits the activity of such an important institution as Corfo. After the new political framework of the country emerged from the recent elections, this must be discouraging, even for the present government.

[ERCILLA] How would you evaluate the economic inheritance of the new government?

[Ominami] Whereas in the political and human rights field we inherit an extremely difficult situation, in the economic field we have a different situation. We have positive elements and also serious difficulties.

[ERCILLA] Let us look at both categories.

[Ominami] From the positive point of view, it is a good thing for this country to begin this transition to democracy with an inflation rate much lower than the rest of our neighbors have, with increasing investments and an orderly financial situation. Those are very valuable elements which make us think realistically that we can accomplish in Chile what has not happened in the rest of the region, that is, a reconciliation between the effective transition to political democracy and economic development and social justice.

[ERCILLA] What will your first tasks be when you take over the Ministry of Economy?

[Ominami] In principle I would think of four matters which seem to be key elements to me: establish quickly a technological development fund which would make it possible to support in this regard all sectors of small and medium-sized industry. Unfortunately, these sectors are operating under technologically precarious conditions. I would expand the whole effort to train the workers. I would increase the whole effort to provide technical and financial assistance to the small and medium-sized industrial sector. Finally, I would continue developing a policy for the protection of the right of the consumer to be well informed.

[ERCILLA] Regarding the consumers, what do you think of the model of the social market economy?

[Ominami] I am very much opposed to formulas which have different meanings, depending on who uses them. In our basic program we avoided talking about a social market economy. The economic policy of the military regime was not the same as the economic strategy of the Federal Republic of Germany. We preferred talking about a mixed economy, in which the market and the private sector play a fundamental role in all productive activity as such.

[ERCILLA] What do you think of economic groups?

[Ominami] This is a subject which is much discussed at the international level. The present forms of private property involve the establishment of large company groups. There are different kinds of groups. I think that it is quite possible to conceive of groups which operate in certain areas and which establish companies which, in turn, form around one group. What appears to be more complicated, in my view, is the establishment of company groups which operate solely and exclusively in accordance with financial logic.

[ERCILLA] You belong to a political group which calls for the renovation of socialism. It is reported that a union is imminent with the PS-Almeyda [Socialist Party-Almeyda Faction], which is not for the renovation of socialism. Who is coming closer to whom?

[Ominami] As a result of the political experience of the last few years, in addition to what is happening internationally, there is a great movement toward a form of socialism clearly reconciled to democracy and a form of socialism which has modern views on economic questions.

* Future Prospects Discussed

90ET0089B Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 7 Jan 90 pp 2D, 3D

[Interview with Minister-designate Edgardo Boeninger by Raquel Correa: "In the Triumvirate of 'The Powerful Ones'"; date and place not given; first two paragraphs are author's comment]

[Text] The interview had not yet begun when he was handed a message. They were calling him on the telephone. He read the note and stood up as if he had been sitting on a spring. After the telephone call ended, he said: "It is the boss. The big boss." And he left to speak with him. The meeting was short, to the point, and relaxed, out of the earshot of reporters.

From then on, however many notes came to him, he did not answer the telephone.

[EL MERCURIO] How do you address "the big boss?" Do you call him Patricio, Don Patricio, President, Pato?

[Boeninger] I have always called him Patricio. I suppose that an inevitable and necessary formality will develop, and the normal tendency is to call chief executives, "President." I suppose that this depends on where you are. If you are in a private and friendly conversation, it is different from when you are in a formal meeting.

[EL MERCURIO] And at a cabinet meeting, would you call him, "Your Excellency?"

[Boeninger] There is no cabinet as yet.

Boeninger answered in an offhand way that there was not going to be a problem, whether the person addressed was the minister secretary of the Presidency, the man most trusted by the president, the "General Ballerino" of the next government, who would sit at the entrance to La Moneda Palace, on the first floor to the right, just beneath the offices and reception rooms of the president.

Boeninger is tall, thin, indeed very thin, with wrinkled skin. This has nothing to do with the fact that he is 64 years old. It is a result of the fact that he is not fat at all and has been out in the sun a great deal. He is absolutely Nordic in outward appearance, with those sky-blue eyes. I've never seen bluer eyes. His hair is light in color and unruly. If he neglects it even slightly, it is a mess. His voice does not suit him very well. His head does. He not only holds it very erect on his shoulders but it makes him look alert, very intelligent, and very clear.

He is a cool and skillful negotiator. He fits political puzzles together covering the short, medium, and long range. At times he seems to be caught in blind alleys, but he always gets to his final destination and always successfully.

With Aylwin

Boeninger met Aylwin years ago, before Boeninger was rector of the University of Chile, when Aylwin was director of the budget in the Frei government. However, they did not work together continuously until 2 years ago, when the National Committee of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] was elected. Then Boeninger, who had been one of the last to enter the PDC just before the military government dissolved all polical parties, placed his bets on Aylwin.

[EL MERCURIO] Did you ever think that he would be president of Chile?

[Boeninger] Never. However, I have never thought that anyone in particular would or would not be president. Nevertheless, from the time when he became president of the Christian Democratic Party, I thought that this was possible. When he took over and successfully performed his role as spokesman of the "No" campaign in the 1988 plebiscite, then it seemed to me that it was the most likely.

Then Boeninger added: "Patricio always impressed me as one of the few people who are statesmen. He is much more than a mere politician."

[EL MERCURIO] And how was it that you became Aylwin's brains?

[Boeninger] Aylwin has his own brains, and they are perfectly well developed. I am not Aylwin's brains. No doubt there is a relationship between us of a certain amount of confidence and closeness. I very much appreciate his confidence. Relationships which grow closer are part of history. At one point I believe I made a contribution to the strategy of democratization: the idea of following the electoral route, of defeating the military regime in an election. And as I was one of those who were in on the beginning of that strategy, it was natural that I was told to get specifically involved and not just be an analyst.

Boeninger clearly became involved in practically everything: the government program, parliamentary lists, political agreements, the nomination of the opposition candidate, and the composition of the cabinet. And now he is one of Aylwin's triumvirate, handling the transition with the present government.

[EL MERCURIO] In your political plans and achievements, which of your abilities do you use the most: your engineer's mind, your outlook as an economist, your political talent, or your interest in sports?

[Boeninger] If I have been able to play a more or less significant role in so many different things recently, it is because I tend to maintain a certain sporting attitude. I do not become too involved. Thus, I have been able to keep a certain capacity for analysis and to relate some things to other things.

[EL MERCURIO] And you were not involved in the internal struggle within the PDC when Aylwin finally became president of the party?

[Boeninger] Certainly, I was involved. However, I kept enough objectivity to understand the position of the different groups, all of which were legitimate. I had no doubt that there were very specific reasons for concluding that Patricio was the best alternative.

In any case, given all of his characteristics and the numerous tasks he has had to perform, Boeninger stood out as having "a very strong vocation for public service." And before I was able to ask him about it, he hastened to say:

"What I definitely do not have is any interest in a political career. That is certain. I have chosen the life I wish to lead. As I took part in political life over the last few years, I had to be prepared to work for President Aylwin. I put it to him this way: I am willing to do what you ask me. However, with the same clarity I have made it absolutely plain that once this period of time is over I will return to private life. I have no interest in political and public life beyond these 4 years of the term in office of Patricio Aylwin."

Cool Head

[EL MERCURIO] Well, let us see. With such a large head, do you have a heart or not?

After laughing and showing that he was a little disconcerted at this question, Boeninger said: "You rationalize your emotions and, to some extent, you can control them. However, we are moved basically by our sentiments. I do not believe that there is a rational man who acts with the mind of a surgeon. The important thing is that you relate your own emotional positions to others, so that you learn to put yourself in the position of another person and understand his reasons and emotions."

And in this matter of placing himself in the position of another person, Boeninger is a master. There is a good reason why he has become the negotiator of negotiators. He says, "I keep a cool head," but in reality he does not have to say this. However, although it may seem incredible, he has his sentimental side.

He said: "Like any human being, I have had problems and difficulties. However, I am a person who is extremely contented with my life. Life has given me much more than I could ever have hoped for, in every sense. In personal and family terms, in terms of happiness, in terms of what I have achieved, in having done the things which I like to do, in having been able to get involved in so many different things. For a long time I have not done anything in which I have not been interested. I consider myself a very happy man. At this point I cannot ask for anything more from life. I find that life has given me everything." He said this, and at this point there is no doubt: He is a cool customer.

The University Is

[EL MERCURIO] Would you like to be rector of the University of Chile again?

He answered: "The second time around is never good." However, what he would definitely hope to do once again, when "this service" to Aylwin is over, is to be an adviser to the World Bank.

[EL MERCURIO] Would you support making the University of Chile a single entity once again, or do you think that it is better left in its present, dismembered state?

[Boeninger] What the government did with the University of Chile was not good. It was a political operation. The government split it up for reasons of national security. This was the case with the detachment of the School of Pedagogy. However, I believe that sooner or later something similar would have happened with the regional universities. Now that the regional universities are going concerns, our responsibility is to turn them into high quality universities.

[EL MERCURIO] What do you think of the new private universities?

[Boeninger] First, the right to establish universities is a well-founded freedom. However, at the same time I see chaos. A very large number of very small, private universities has been established which will teach people with endless blackboards and chalk. This system is going to fill us up with commercial engineers, accountants, auditors, architects, paramedics, etc. And that is nonsense. A time will come when that will simply be a swindle for the young people who will have nowhere to exercise their professions. I foresee the day when many universities will join together, and only a few universities will remain open.

[EL MERCURIO] Will the next government try to join the smaller universities together?

[Boeninger] No. The matter should be studied, because some coordination is needed in the system of higher education. How to do this without restricting free initiative is something which we have to look at more carefully. We have to ensure the maintenance of quality in the universities and not generate an explosion in the number of the relatively well-educated unemployed.

With the Communist Party

[EL MERCURIO] What importance do you attach to the electoral failure of the Extreme Left in the recent elections?

[Boeninger] I would not speak of the failure of the Left but rather of the success of the Center.

[EL MERCURIO] By eliminating the Communist Party from the election lists of the CPPD [Coalition of Parties for Democracy] was your objective to keep the communists outside of parliament?

[Boeninger] They were left out through the operation of the law. We were not prepared to share election lists with groups with which we have important strategic and ideological differences and which were not part of the CPPD. However, from the political point of view, I do not think that it is good for them to be excluded. We should change the law, returning to a reasonable, proportional representation system, with changes which avoid the fragmentation of the party system in such a way that all of those parties which have real roots in society are represented in parliament.

[EL MERCURIO] Would you say that the Communist Party has "real roots?"

[Boeninger] Although it has ceased being really attractive to the masses of the people, it has enough support to be in parliament. And it is very bad that a significant party should be outside of parliament. This tends to give it an incentive for working against the system. One of our responsibilities is to carry out an electoral reform so that all parties which are really representative can enter parliament in the next elections. And we intend to anticipate that by democratizing local government with mayors and members of municipal councils elected by popular vote.

[EL MERCURIO] Do you have the support of Nacional Renewal [RN] for those changes?

[Boeninger] We hope to be able to generate the support of a consensus broad enough to democratize the local government system.

[EL MERCURIO] Are you thinking of abolishing the Codeco's [Community Development Councils] and the Codere's [Regional Development Councils]?

[Boeninger] Municipal democratization implies electing mayors, a municipal council, and changing the law affecting Codeco's and Codere's so that they will have more functional representation than they now have. However, they will continue to be advisory bodies at their respective levels. This amounts to an important form of participation, provided that these entities are not confused with bodies elected by the people and on condition that the members of these organizations really come from the organizations which they are supposed to represent.

Problems Facing Aylwin

[EL MERCURIO] What problems are facing Aylwin? The continuation of General Pinochet as commander in chief of the Army, for starters?

[Boeninger] I agree with what Patricio Aylwin has said to General Pinochet. Although his remaining in his present position in the Army is in accordance with the Constitution, from the political point of view it is not a good thing either for the country or for the Armed Forces for him to remain on active service. Further developments in this situation are in the hands of the president and of the commander in chief of the Army himself.

[EL MERCURIO] The matter of human rights is also coming up.

[Boeninger] No doubt this is the most sensitive issue which we will have to deal with. In a few more days President-Elect Aylwin will appoint the minister of justice, and this is a matter which will require very firm and very prudent presidential leadership.

[EL MERCURIO] However, in the government program you support repealing the amnesty law.

[Boeninger] We have drawn on something which was in the National Agreement. We believe in truth and justice. However, at the same time we are committed to raising cases of violations of human rights only before the ordinary courts, using properly supported presumptions and evidence, without resorting to ad hoc courts or collective judgments.

[EL MERCURIO] Even though these violations may have taken place between 1973 and 1978?

[Boeninger] Just so, whenever the incidents may have occurred. Regarding seeking the repeal of the amnesty law, we do not know if that is possible to do or not. Finally, looking at the problem in all of its complexity from the ethical, political, and juridical point of view, I believe that it will not be easy to reach a consensus. I even foresee a process which will not be easy but which should be brought to an end, even though this will mean being criticized on all sides for following the honorable path to a solution. I cannot state right now what form that path might take. It will involve facing up to and resolving the dilemma of unusual crimes and also resolving in a satisfactory and reasonable way the problem of the political detainees.

[EL MERCURIO] Will they be pardoned?

[Boeninger] We are studying these cases, one by one. We must examine the legal options open to us and search for formulas which take into account the different situations involved. It would be very irresponsible to anticipate the specific formulas which will be used. We will have to see what develops over time.

[EL MERCURIO] There are people who hope that the remains of their loved ones will be turned over so that they can bury them. How are you answering them?

[Boeninger] We hope that those people will know the truth. However, I do not know how the process which leads to the truth is going to turn out. We also hope that there will be some kind of moral or material reparations for the families of those victims.

[EL MERCURIO] Do you believe in forgetting about them in any case?

[Boeninger] No. You cannot force anyone to forget by decree. A way must be found which will lead to a real reconciliation. That means taking the victims into account. Also part of this reality is how the Armed Forces look at this problem.

[EL MERCURIO] Then there will be those who say: "Look at what happened. They promised us the truth. They came into the government and left us in mourning and uncertainty."

[Boeninger] That is not our view. We do not say now that we are the government and that we have forgotten about this matter. We hope to obtain as much satisfaction as possible for those who were victims, within the possibilities open to us, conciliating people in view of the need for pacification and consensus. I think that those affected, including the victims and their families, are the key players in this process, but they are not the only ones. There is a national problem among us requiring a solution which will make it possible for all of us to take a deep breath one day, saying that the country has also solved this problem. That kind of solution does not involve simply forgetting about the situation or taking vengeance against someone. Extreme positions do not lead to pacification. This is a challenge for everyone, including the government and the Armed Forces. However, the Aylwin government cannot put aside human rights issue. It will be very seriously involved in looking for paths leading to a solution.

And the Poor

Boeninger continued: "Another serious problem which we will face is the potential for social demands of an economic nature which could go beyond the resources available for them. We are quite clear that we cannot risk the stability of the economy. We must keep a dynamic and stable economy functioning, and that will be a source of problems, because demands and urgent needs are much greater than the resources available to meet them."

[EL MERCURIO] Then the poor will have to go on waiting?

[Boeninger] As Foxley said this week, there is a change which must be noted immediately. There will be a change in style and in priorities which should be apparent from the first day. However, our problems will not be solved from one day to another. There are measures which will be adopted according to the resources available and which will mean relief or a beginning toward a solution in different areas. We have spoken of raising the minimum wage, minimum pensions, and family allowances.

[EL MERCURIO] Then between social justice and economic development you prefer the latter.

[Boeninger] They are two simultaneous and parallel processes which are intimately linked. The possibility of resolving social problems depends to a large extent on the resources available for them. However, the fact that there is growth does not ensure social progress by itself. The poor will have to wait, in the sense that solutions to their problems will not be instantaneous but gradual. And in Chile today no one can expect that we will be in heaven because of the fact that we have a democratic government.

Political Problem

Boeninger continued: "The third problem which we will have is specifically political. This country has a great opportunity to build a stable, political system because the basic points of agreement are now greater than they ever were previously. However, there are specific, short-term problems which could be obstacles in our path. Specifically, there is a group of constitutional reforms pending, and we hope that in connection with the most important of them—Electoral Court, electoral system, law on political parties, and political decentralization—we will reach adequate agreements, particularly with the National Renewal Party."

[EL MERCURIO] And no action on appointed senators? Is this because the CPPD does not have a large enough majority to pass the necessary legislation?

[Boeninger] When we reached agreement on the constitutional reform of 1989, we agreed not to insist on the immediate elimination of appointed senators in exchange for obtaining the group of improvements which those reforms implied. We say that we would like to amend the constitution, putting an end to the institution of appointed senators as soon as possible. We are aware that this will not happen during the first 4 years of the government. At no time did we agree or suppose that the appointment of senators could be accomplished in a unilateral way.

[EL MERCURIO] Calling on your political realism, what solution do you see?

[Boeninger] The government argument is that the appointed senators will bring their experience to the resolution of the problem. That experience does not imply that the appointed senators will take part in political decisionmaking. In my view they should feel that they should not systematically take part in voting which would place them on the side of the government or the opposition.

[EL MERCURIO] They should abstain from voting?

[Boeninger] They should not vote on political matters either on our side or on that of the present government. This is because it is not stated anywhere that the institution of appointed senators is intended to change the expression of the people's will. In the Senate there is a majority of 22 senators against 16 in favor of the future government. Nothing provides that an institution not created by the people's choice, such as the appointed senators, should change that choice.

[EL MERCURIO] Nothing less than the constitution provides for that institution.

[Boeninger] The constitution authorizes the existence of appointed senators. However, out of respect for the will of the people, I believe that they should provide evidence of their independence, acting in such a way that they will never appear to be integral parts of any bloc. When voting comes up on clearly political subjects, they should abstain. If they act in a contrary way, this would be the most important political stumbling block which I see in the future.

'The Church Has Not Intervened in Ministerial Matters'

If anyone wishes to keep a secret well guarded, he would have to go where Edgardo Boeninger is and tell it to him. Although he confessed that he loves "trial balloons," he did not give any examples. That surely is one of the reasons why Aylwin assigns such broad-ranging tasks to him.

He is highly skilled in shifting ground when he does not wish to reply. He considers that what happens in the cabinet is a "state secret." And much more than that. He is prudent in the expression of his views. It is difficult to catch him making a harsh comment or severely criticizing someone. Not even against the present government and now less than ever—because there is nothing stupid about him.

After a long discussion on the terrace of his house, where he takes refuge when he works, he admitted that his deep differences with the Pinochet regime have not disappeared. However, he recognizes that the Pinochet government has shown "flexibility in its final actions."

[EL MERCURIO] Are you afraid that the people of the Left will reproach you for having reached an "understanding with the dictatorship"?

[Boeninger] There may be people who will say that. However, everything we are doing has the full support of the CPPD. On these matters in which we are involved, Enrique Krauss, Foxley, and I do not act on our own.

[EL MERCURIO] Who is in charge here, the CPPD or the president-elect?

[Boeninger] The president-elect. However everything we are doing reflects the points of view of the CPPD.

A Toast on 14 December

Boeninger is a civil and commercial engineer, as well as an "amateur" political scientist. He likes to speak quietly, at length, preferably without interruptions. Questions calling for quick answers are torture for him. But he submits to them—sometimes.

[EL MERCURIO] The union of the various elements now making up the Socialist Party [PS] changed the balance of forces within the future government.

[Boeninger] Not at all. The reduction of the multitude of political parties to a reasonable number is a very healthy process. Large and strong parties.

In passing, he notes that the Christian Democratic Party remained the largest force, with 13 senators and 40 deputies.

[EL MERCURIO] Tell the truth. On 14 December were you among those who toasted or who regretted the loss by Lagos?

[Boeninger] I regretted it.

[EL MERCURIO] It is said that in your party there were some who were happy about it.

[Boeninger] No. I do not believe that anyone in the Christian Democratic Party celebrated the fact that Ricardo Lagos was not elected to Congress. I believe that some people in my party toasted the defeat of Zaldivar. It is virtually a disgrace that the two of them on our list were not elected but that Jaime Guzman, the candidate of Democracy and Progress, was elected. It is very regrettable that Lagos was not reelected to parliament. We also deeply regret the defeat of Juan Hamilton or Adolfo Zaldivar. However, in elections you win or you lose. And a defeat in an election is not a tragedy. People have political weight and roles to play beyond an election result.

[EL MERCURIO] In the specific case of Ricardo Lagos, it is said that he has been offered an ambassadorship or a cabinet position.

[Boeninger] I cannot comment on that.

[EL MERCURIO] If you were Lagos, which would you prefer?

[Boeninger] I do not know. I will not put myself in the position of what other people might prefer. However, I would not be at all surprised if Ricardo Lagos were a member of the cabinet.

[EL MERCURIO] Possibly as minister of education?

[Boeninger] It could be.

[EL MERCURIO] Is it true that the Catholic Church asked that Lagos should not be appointed minister of education, as he is a socialist and an agnostic?

[Boeninger] It is not true. The Church is very respectful of the civil authorities in these matters. It has not made any representations in favor of or against anyone as a cabinet minister.

Rewards for the Transition Period

[EL MERCURIO] Now that you are about to be in government, have you thought of using the powers now in force to keep out of office, as you once commented, certain well-known personalities of the CPPD?

[Boeninger] No. I think that every moment of history has its key ideas. We made a bet that we could achieve democracy through the electoral route. This course had its risks, but we were successful.

[EL MERCURIO] If you had to divide the honors for the transition to democracy in order of importance, to whom would you give the first prize?

[Boeninger] It would depend on which period is involved. In the initial period, in terms of actions taken, it was the social groups. It began with social protests and continued with social pressures which slowly were translated into elections in the different organizations—professional organizations, associations, and trade unions. And that was an element of liberalization which exerted pressure on the authoritarian system. In that stage the principal actor was civilian society.

[EL MERCURIO] And who personified civilian society?

[Boeninger] Bustos and Martinez. In another category the honors should go to those who fought for human rights. The Catholic Church and, in particular, the Vicariate of Solidarity and the Committee on Human Rights.

He continued: Then, later on, when relative freedom had been obtained in society, the political parties began to take first place. They had enough room to maneuver. The political parties as a whole were the major players in that second stage. They developed and successfully implemented the strategy of free elections which culminated in the challenge of the plebiscite, "the campaign for a 'no' vote." All of the people who led the key parties during this stage deserve major rewards. In the Christian Democratic Party Gabriel Valdes performed a fundamental role. Then Patricio Aylwin succeeded him, and he had the good luck to serve during the decisive period. The same thing can be said about "rewards" for the successive leaders of the Socialist Party. Carlos Briones made a decisive contribution in leading the Socialist Party into the Democratic Alliance. In the alliance the first formal contact took place in the association of political parties, including some which had even been opposed to each other. Then came Ricardo Nunez and Ricardo Lagos. They worked closely together and had a decisive influence in adopting the electoral strategy and ensuring that the whole opposition would support the "campaign for a 'no' vote." We must also recognize many other actors: the courage of whose who were dissident leaders of the National Party which finally became the PAC [Central Alliance Party]. They included Riesco, Correa, Puig, Hurtado, and others. The socialists of the Almeyda faction were very significant in the return to democracy, as were leaders like Enrique Silva Cimma and Eugenio Velasco.

[EL MERCURIO] From your point of view those were the heroes of this story. Who would the villains have been?

[Boeninger] Those who thought that it was necessary to have an authoritarian government for an indefinite period of time or a timid form of democracy. Now they are quite forgotten.

[EL MERCURIO] Then did you think that Pinochet was the great villain?

[Boeninger] I would not say 'villain.' However, he saw himself as the man who would lead this country at least until 1997. Things turned out differently.

[EL MERCURIO] Would you give some kind of recognition to General Pinochet for the role which he finally played in the transition to democracy?

[Boeninger] Recently, decisions were made by the present government which were essential to permit the transition to democracy. I would attribute those decisions to the present government, and Pinochet is the head of that government.

[EL MERCURIO] Do you think that changes in direction or, to put it more plainly, coups d'etat, are now over at this point?

[Boeninger] I think that now there is no possibility of a coup d'etat. To begin with, there is no intention to do it, and no one would accept it. Furthermore, there are no reasons or pretexts for attempting it. This country is engaged in a process of consensus building and is more flexible in terms of all of its relations. The election of 1989 was much more open and fair than the plebiscite. Flexibility is now being shown in arranging for the transfer of power and in joint discussion of the final legislative measures required. In this phase I could not fail to mention Minister of the Interior Carlos Caceres. Without the arrangements made by Caceres it would have been much more difficult to reach those milestones of consensus which led to the constitutional reforms and the appointment of the Board of Directors of the Central Bank. Just as the CPPD made its position flexible to the maximum extent, Caceres influenced the process in a decisive way. Also worthy of recognition is Sergio Onofre Jarpa as president of the National Renewal Party.

Colombia

Jury Sentences Killers of Patriotic Union Leader

PA0702042690 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Authorities have finally arrested another one of the assassins of Patriotic Union [UP] President Jaime Pardo Leal. Just one month after the assassination of UP leader Jaime Pardo Leal, the DAS [Administrative Department of Security] reported the names of the assassins who were paid to kill him. According to the Justice Ministry and to DAS Director General Miguel Maza, Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha paid for this assassination. However, on 14 March 1989, a jury found no evidence and exonerated Rodriguez. The same jury found William Infante and Beller Jessid Barrera Ramirez guilty of killing Jaime Pardo Leal, and sentenced them to 24 and 25 years in prison.

Infante was arrested on 18 May 1988 in Florida and was charged with possession of 3,457 lbs of cocaine. The Miami Court sentenced him to life in prison with no chance for probation or parole. Beller Jessid Barrera Ramirez, who according to the authorities and the courts killed the UP president, was captured by 14th Brigade troops stationed in Puerto Berrio. Barrera Ramirez' arrest took place on 17 January during an Army raid in Puerto Boyaca. He was turned over to the 4th District Special Court and will serve his sentence at La Picota jail.

Paraguay

Argana Comments on Quayle Visit, Current Issues

PY0602164490 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 6 Feb 90 p 12

[Text] Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana has described U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle's upcoming visit to Paraguay as very important. Argana said that Dan Quayle is currently President Bush' interlocutor with Latin America. Argana added that within a few days the government will announce the Paraguayan Government candidate for the ALADI [Latin-American Integration Association] undersecretariat.

Argana said that Quayle will be in Paraguay 11-15 March, between the inauguration of Chilean President-elect Patricio Aylwin and the inauguration of Brazilian President-elect Fernando Collor de Mello.

Argana said that this will be a very important visit, adding: "This is obvious because he is the vice president of a very powerful country with which Paraguay maintains diplomatic relations. Right now Quayle is President Bush's direct interlocutor with Latin America."

Leaving Government House, where he held a meeting with President Rodriguez, Argana added that he and Rodriguez discussed the Paraguayan candidate to the ALADI undersecretariat. He said the appointment is being discussed and that it must be made by March. He said: "We still have time to make this decision."

Argana added that there are still 10 ambassadorial positions to be filled. He said new Paraguayan ambassadors will be appointed to the United Kingdom, Central American countries, Peru, and South Africa. He admitted that the Paraguayan ambassadors to Chile and Uruguay might be changed. He said: "we still have to make eight or 10 ambassadorial appointments."

Argana said he is optimistic about the visit the Inter-American Human Rights Committee (CIDH) will make to Paraguay as of 6 February.

He added: "The government is clean. There is a good atmosphere regarding human rights and this allows the CIDH to assess the situation in Paraguay."

Peru

Foreign Minister Stresses Coca Replacement

PY0602171690 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Feb 90

[News conference by Foreign Minister Guillermo Larco Cox with unidentified reporters; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] What position will Peru adopt regarding the drug-trafficking problem at the Cartagena summit? Will you insist that the United States purchase our entire coca crop?

[Larco Cox] This is just part of the drug-trafficking problem. The other aspects include the supply of manufactured chemical components, the agricultural aspect, processing, marketing, transit, and final distribution. These aspects have always been handled separately in the past and not as a single problem. For this reason the fight against drug trafficking has not been successful. There also are important secondary aspects, such as the laundering of money with the assistance of international banks.

Peru is primarily involved in the agricultural aspect. This problem cannot be solved simply by using herbicides or by ripping the plants out by the roots because such measures could create a social problem such as unemployment, particularly in the coca-producing regions. Unemployment could lead to subversion. This is why Peru believes the answer to our problem is to replace the coca crops with other types of crops. This may be partially achieved if the coca leaves are all purchased. Complementary measures will be needed. They would include access for the new crops to international markets by eliminating the duties to which the countries—which also participate as consumers and thus generate the whole problem—have caused us to be accustomed.

Vargas Llosa in Lead for 8 Apr Elections

PY0502124590 Madrid EFE in Spansih 2200 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Lima, 4 Feb (EFE)—Writer and presidential candidate Mario Vargas Llosa is in the lead for the 8 April elections, according to two polls published in Lima today.

According to a poll carried out by the "market-promotion research" [investigacion de mercados-promociones] company during the last week of January, 53 percent of those questioned preferred the center-right candidate of the Democratic Front (FREDEMO). Vargas Llosa was far ahead of the two leftist candidates and over the ruling American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA) party candidate.

According to the poll, published today in the center-right newspaper EXPRESO, 15 percent preferred former Lima Mayor Alfonso Barrantes, of the Movement of the Socialist Left (MIS), eight percent preferred Henry Peace, of the United Left (IU), and eight percent preferred Luis Alva Castro, of the APRA.

Five other presidential candidates from regional political parties or independents were preferred, in all, by two percent of those polled.

The same poll showed that 52 percent preferred FREDEMO when asked for which political party they would vote if the elections were to take place tomorrow, while 12 percent preferred the MIS, 11 percent preferred the IU, and 8 percent preferred the APRA.

Meanwhile, the poll carried out by the "Support" [Apoyo] company, published in the center-left newspaper LA REPUBLICA, indicates that 52 percent of the voters approve of Mario Vargas Llosa's attitude during his election campaign. This poll was carried out during the first half of January.

This poll shows that 34 percent of the public disapproves of the novelist's election campaign. According to this poll, only 20 percent of the voters know that the elections for president and congressmen will take place on 8 April, while 33 percent know only that they will take place in April. Eleven percent of the people think the elections will take place in some other month, eight percent cannot remember, and 28 percent do not know.

Vargas Llosa has led in the polls since the second half of 1989.

Suspected of Tax Evasion

PY0502211990 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Interview with Luis Alberto Salgado, member of the American Revolutionary Popular Alliance, APRA, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [Reporter] We are now with Luis Alberto Salgado, who has accused Democratic Front [FREDEMO] presidential candidate Mario Vargas Llosa of alleged tax evasion. Welcome to our program.

[Salgado] Thank you very much.

[Reporter] Please tell us about this prickly issue.

[Salgado] Rightist sectors are once again exaggerating events. We have submitted a document to the tax revenue office which is based on statements by a senator of the Republic and by a minister of state. The document suggests that Mario Vargas Llosa is guilty of tax evasion. This is not an accusation, it is a formal complaint; a report. We are requesting that the case be investigated. During the past four or five years Vargas Llosa has travelled abroad 32 times. He has spoken at important conferences; courses; and he has participated in forums. It is absurd, unthinkable, and ridiculous to believe that he has received absolutely nothing in exchange. The tax revenue office should summon Mario Vargas Llosa and ask what he has been doing lately. [passage omitted]

Leftist Leader Barrantes Refers to Party Split

PY0302031090 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Interview with Alfonso Barrantes Lingan, presidential candidate for the Socialist Left, by Mauricio Mulder Bedoya in the "Parenthesis" feature at the Peruana studio; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Mulder] Here we are with Alfonso Barrantes Lingan, Socialist Left [Izquierda Socialista] candidate for president. Is it no longer called Movement of the Socialist Left [Movimiento de Izquierda Socialista] [MIS]?

[Barrantes] When our Nonpartisan Socialist Movement [Movimento Socialista no Partidarizado] joined the Socialist Agreement [Acuerdo Socialista], we created what is simply called the Socialist Left.

[Mulder] To call it MIS would give it another meaning.

[Barrantes] Yes, it reminds one of beauty pageants.

[Mulder] [passage omitted] According to the latest polls, when the public is asked for whom they would vote, you come in second, but when they are asked for what political party they would vote, the United Left comes in ahead of the Socialist Left. Why do you think this is so?

[Barrantes] The United Left has existed for 8 years, while the Socialist Left is only a few months old. I also think that people are confused over our symbol. A lot of people who are identified with me continue to think that my symbol is the little flag, but they are gradually becoming aware that my symbol now is a little bean.

[Mulder] You never clearly explained why you split from the United Left. You were repeatedly blamed for the vanguard and militarized groups in the United Left. You always maintained good relations with the Communist Party and the MAS [Movement for Socialism]. Was there an ideological disagreement?

[Barrantes] Of course. I do not agree with extremist positions.

[Mulder] Like that of the PUM [Unified Mariateguist Party].

[Barrantes] Yes, but I would rather not mention party names because within these parties—whose leaders hold extremist positions—there are grass-roots sectors which are not extremist.

[Mulder] But Henry Peace, Gustavo Mome, or Agustin Haya, who are United Left candidates, cannot be labeled extremists.

[Barrantes] Not at all. But they should be asked why they have allied themselves with those who hold extremist positions.

[Mulder] Why do you think they did so?

[Barrantes] They are the only ones who know. [passage omitted]

[Mulder] The main point of your government platform is to seek consensus through national agreement. We have already heard this proposal from the mouths of many politicians because it sounds good, but it has never been put into practice, right? In a country like ours, where there are many political confrontations, national agreement is practically impossible to reach.

[Barrantes] The difficult things are the most important ones.

[Mulder] But should politicians not seek alternatives to the impossible?

[Barrantes] Yes, but each one has his own alternative. In eight days our platform will be ready. We consider there to be certain problems on which we must insist on reaching a consensus. As a mayor, I did not think I would find such efficient aides in councilmen like Manuel Casea from the PPC [Popular Christian Party] and Luis Castaneda Losio from the Popular Action Party.

[Mulder] But as a mayor one solves urgent daily problems, not big issues. For example, the executive branch deals with the economy, which is something that must be questioned by the left, which in turn is incapable of reaching a consensus on the subject.

[Barrantes] Yes, but I think that in the face of inflation, if we summoned experts from all sectors we could find some alternative formulas on which we politicians could reach a consensus.

[Mulder] Of course such a solution is sought, but if in general terms we speak of what an administration should be, to think that the left would reach a national agreement is somewhat unbelievable, right?

[Barrantes] It is the only alternative we have. If our economic situation were not serious and dramatic, and if we were not affected by terrorism and drug trafficking as well, I would not be speaking of a national agreement. I would be referring exclusively to my government platform, asking the voters to support it. That position, however, is not in keeping with the reality in which we live.

[Mulder] Last question, Mr Barrantes. Which would you say was the best achievement and the worst mistake of the current administration?

[Barrantes] I think its best achievement was the president's strength to bear criticism, some of which wase exaggerated. I criticized the president extensively, especially for his economic policy because it has greatly impoverished the majority of the Peruvian people. It must be a painful situation for those APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance Party] supporters, who for decades sacrificed themselves for their party dreaming that the APRA would bring the much-desired social justice.

[Mulder] Then you believe that the government's worse mistake was its economic policy?

[Barrantes] Yes, because its results are evident. The current administration's main achievement was to maintain the freedom of expression.

[Mulder] Freedom of expression will allow us, Mr Barrantes, to continue talking in the future, during the election campaign, about the economic policy. I thank you for your presence here.

[Barrantes] Thank you.

Soldiers, Terrorists Die in Ayacucho Ambush

PY0502155890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0304 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Ayacucho, 4 Feb (EFE)—It was reported here today that at least nine people, seven terrorists and two soldiers, died in a clash between Peruvian security forces and a group of Shining Path guerrillas.

According to a military source in Huanta, the clash took place today near Maynay, approximately five km from Huanta, which is 50 km from Ayacucho, the capital of the department.

A joint Army and National Police patrol traveling in two vehicles was ambushed on its way to Caballococha. The patrol had just left Huanta. According to the source, two members of the security force died: Captain Juan Eduardo Noriega, 35, and Sgt. Roberto Espiritu Torres, 28. Seven Shining Path terrorists also died. Five soldiers and two National Police officers were wounded.

News media also reported today that the bodies of four persons were found in Ayacucho, 575 km southeast of Lima, on 3 February. The four persons had been shot to death, apparently by terrorists, in two suburban neighborhoods three km from Ayacucho.

A special committee of the Peruvian Senate that is studying the causes of violence in Peru has reported that 316 people died as a result of political violence in January this year, raising the death toll to 17,816 since Shining Path began armed activity in 1980.

The committee recently released a report stating that political violence has become established in Peru because of its resilience and constant outbreaks.

Uruguay

Lacalle Reports on Meeting With President Bush

PY0602162290 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 2300 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Report by Jorge Reyna from Washington—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Uruguayan President-elect Luis Alberto Lacalle told U.S. President George Bush that Uruguay can play an important role in the River Plate Basin. He said this during their meeting at the White House at 1115 on 5 February. U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Nicholas Brady and other U.S. Government authorities also attended the meeting.

It was a very positive meeting, Lacalle said during a telephone conversation from New York.

[Lacalle] "The conversation was centered on the objective of my visit to the United States. I stated that although there are many important things taking place in the world, the Latin American issue, especially the River Plate basin—where Uruguay wishes to play an important role—must not be (?pushed aside) [word indistinct] given the current political situation.

"President Bush confirmed to us that the United States does not intend to leave aside, forget, or downgrade its relations with South America. We have thus spoken in favor of the River Plate Basin, a subject I previously discussed before arriving here with Presidents Menem [of Argentine], Rodriguez [of Paraguay], and President-elect Collor de Mello [of Brazil]. I did not mean to speak on behalf of other countries who conduct their own individual foreign policies but this is a point upon which we all agree. We have therefore passed the message to the United States, and we hope that it will yield positive results."

Drug trafficking and the foreign debt were also discussed during the Bush-Lacalle meeting.

[Lacalle] "As for drug trafficking, the United States and Uruguay are about to sign a penal law cooperation treaty. We also agreed that the Uruguayan banking system should remain open and free and thus prevent any narco-dollar laundering. Regarding the foreign debt, we will continue to discuss the subject with Mr. Brady. However, we said that Uruguay wishes to solve this problem before midyear."

We asked Lacalle if President Bush showed any interest in Uruguay.

[Lacalle] "He did not ask me anything about Uruguay. I tried to describe Uruguay as the hinge, the connecting element, of Latin American integration. I think this is a graphic image that he will remember."

These were the impressions obtained by President-elect Luis Alberto Lacalle following his meeting with U.S. President George Bush.

Four Presidents To Attend Lacalle Inauguration

PY0102114090 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2348 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Montevideo, 31 Jan (EFE)—It was reported today that Argentine President Carlos Saul Menem, Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora, Brazilian President Jose Sarney, and Paraguayan President Andres Rodriguez have confirmed that they will attend the inauguration of Uruguayan President-elect Luis Alberto Lacalle on 1 March.

Uruguayan Foreign Minister-elect Hector Gros Espiel has announced that Brazilian President-elect Fernando Collor de Mello, and Chilean President-elect Patricio Aylwin will also attend the ceremony.

Former Argentine President Raul Alfonsin will attend Collor's inauguration at the invitation of outgoing Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti.

Gros Espiel said that Cuba, Spain, the United States, and Guatemala have not yet confirmed whether they will send official delegations.

Lacalle's inauguration "will be austere owing to the country's economic situation but it will be celebrated with joy [words indistinct] and street festivities," Gros Espiel added.

Lacalle Defends Armed Forces Appointment Plan

PY0302153690 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0830 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Regarding the future head of state, President-elect Luis Alberto Lacalle yesterday said he would not discuss political issues with military officers. He announced that on 1 March 1990, when he assumes the post of commander in chief of the Armed Forces, he will exercise his powers as such and appoint the Air Force and national Navy commanders in accordance with the Constitution and the law.

In a news conference at the Parque Hotel, Lacalle was asked about recent statements by military men reflecting concern over the fact that on 1 February 1990 the established practice of replacing the three Armed Forces commanders did not take place as the replacement of two of them is still pending.

Lacalle said that in our country we are not governed by customs but by laws. He noted that this has not always been the custom and that in the past some Armed Forces branches have temporarily had no commander. Lacalle then said that military officers are strictly prohibited from venturing into political issues and that, therefore, he would not discuss them.

Lacalle disagreed with statements by National Defense Minister Lieutenant General Hugo Medina, retired, who on 1 February talked about the military's concerns. Lacalle described Medina as a seasoned politician.

New Army Commander Installed; Stresses Justice

PY0302134490 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 2300 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] The new Army commander in chief was installed today. In a speech to his subordinates he expressed his deep conviction on the need to be totally fair in their procedures. He pointed out that one must use justice in rewarding and in correcting, always avoiding leniency. This will keep us from putting shirkers on the same level as those who dutifully comply with their professional tasks. These statements were made by Lieutenant General Guillermo de Nava. After being sworn in by the national defense minister, De Nava began his speech by saying:

[Begin De Nava recording] During this relief ceremony, which has become necessary by the passage of time, I am both satisfied and sad to receive from my commander in chief, my friend, Lieutenant General Carlos Berois, the post of Army commander. [Word indistinct] who is now abandoning active duty as a man who dedicated the best of his intellect and ability to benefit a military institution with a history of sacrifice and tradition and a clear concept of its role within the national arena. My predecessor has contributed to the consolidation of these values during the command which he is today concluding.

My Lieutenant General, you are fortunate to retire in the company of your devoted wife, your children, your grandchildren, and your friends; in whom you will undoubtedly find an ideal reserve of comfort and understanding that will allow you to enjoy a refreshing rest.

The honor of conducting the national Army is in our hands, and this is an appropriate moment to reflect on the basic guidelines of the criteria with which we will face this task.

Regarding my superior, we are surely and deeply convinced that the Constitution and the law will provide us with an appropriate atmosphere for exerting the command of a (?particularly) sensitive institution, given that such quality is appropriate for a [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Outgoing Commander Lt. Gen. Carlos Berois stated that he will return to his home with the certainty that, as is the case with all old soldiers, he will always be part of the national Army, ready to offer his services whenever the motherland may require them.

[Begin Berois recording, in progress] ...a regulation that establishes time limits on our posts to ensure the rotation of personnel and to allow a renewal that maintains the dignity of and reinvigorates the institution.

When I assumed command on 1 February 1987, I promised to spare no effort to make the Army aware of its mission and of its responsibility for its actions in guaranteeing the integrity and safety of the motherland, its institutions, and its inhabitants. I planned to achieve this with dignity, because we believe that an Army without dignity is useless to both the motherland and its members.

Many aspirations for the institution and the country accompanied [words indistinct] at that moment, some of which could not be realized because harsh reality and restrictions imposed on even the highest posts made it impossible. Other goals were partially achieved and we have had the satisfaction of seeing still others come to fruition in concrete actions which make us proud today. [end recording]

Tarigo on Cooperation With Future Administration

PY0302151890 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 2300 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Excerpts] The Colorado Party has replied to the proposals made by the president-elect regarding a coalition government and has decided to approve the fiscal reform measures proposed by the new administration that will assume office in March. The most important aspects of a recent meeting between Vice President Enrique Tarigo and top Colorado Party leaders have been reported by Tarigo himself:

[Begin recording] [Tarigo, in progress] ...an informative meeting. Jorge Batlle and I, as a representative of our group in the conversation with the president-elect and Mr Pacheco, [words indistinct] have explained our points of view regarding this document, which was published today by a weekly. I cannot give you any exclusive news about it.

[Reporter] What agreement has been reached with the newly elected government?

[Tarigo] The Colorado Party and all political sectors have the strongest intention to cooperate with the future administration. We are still studying how to do this. We have studied aspects of the fiscal reform and the most important issues with great attention. We have yet not considered other topics, but it is our firm intention to help. After all, we believe that whoever wins the elections will need help. No administration would work otherwise.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] you join the cabinet?

[Tarigo] No, that has not been specified in our agenda. We have still not arrived at that point. That is a final step. To join the cabinet we must first agree on a thousand things. We will take one step at a time, and the rest will come naturally. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] What is your reply to Lacalle's recent proposal?

[Tarigo] Our answer is that, in principle, the Colorado Party will help the National Party approve this essential instrument, this fiscal reform. The details have not yet been worked out, as I told you, but we are of course aware that the increase in pensions required by the citizenry must be financed with genuine resources. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Guyana

President Hoyte Leaves 4 Feb for Visit to UK

FL0302025590 Bridgetown CANA in English 2240 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 2, CANA—President Desmond Hoyte leaves Guyana Sunday [4 February] for the United Kingdom—his first overseas trip this year. A brief official statement issued here gave no indication as to the nature of the visit, but a senior official at the office of the president told CANA it will be a private one.

It will be Mr Hoyte's second private visit to London in two months. He last visited London last December immediately after attending the annual conference on the Caribbean, in Miami.

He is expected to return to Guyana February 9.

UK Consultants View Country's Public Service

FL0202215190 Bridgetown CANA in English 1903 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 2, CANA—A six-member team of British consultants is in Guyana to conduct a thorough review of the country's public service as part of the government's Economic Recovery Programme (ERP).

The review being financed with assistance from the British Government is intended to lay the foundation for an extensive rationalisation and restructuring of government ministries, departments and agencies and regional administrations.

A senior official within the Ministry of the Public Service told CANA the exercise was hardly likely to result in any massive retrenchment of public service employees. He said it is generally believed that while there might be some overlapping of functions and duplication of efforts, the service is terribly undermanned and currently has a large number of vacancies for which it has been finding it difficult to fill.

The exercise is being conducted by management consultants from the British firm of Peat Marwick McLintock on behalf of the Public Service Ministry.

It is likely to result in the merging of some ministries, departments and agencies, and in the scrapping of others all with an eye to improving the overall efficiency and effectivenes of the public service and reducing costs.

It is also likely to make provisions for salary increases for selected categories of employees so that the service may attract and retain qualified personnel. Another specific target of the exercise will be the institutional strengthening of the Public Service Ministry.

The official said the exercise will entail a more rational deployment or redeployment of manpower resources within the public service.

Bomb Explosions on 5 Feb Draw Responses

Government Issues Warning

FL0602172690 Bridgetown CANA in English 2359 GMT 05 Feb 90

[Report by Courtney Gibson]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 5, CANA—Prime Minister Hamilton Green warned on Monday night that attempts to sabotage public property will be dealt with "swiftly and severely". The official Guyana Public Communications Corporation (GPCA) said the prime minister's remarks were made in response to two bomb blasts and the discovery of two other explosive devices in the city earlier in the day.

It said the bombs were clearly aimed at sabotaging the city's telecommunications systems and it is believed that the first blast in which three passersby were slightly injured may have been aimed at dislocating the telecommunications facilities at Camp Ayangana, the nearby headquarters of the Guyana Defence Force (GDF).

GPCA reported the prime minister, who is now performing the duties of president in the absence of President Desmond Hoyte now in London on a private visit, as saying that any attempt at sabotage aimed at damaging the country's vital "public utilities systems and disrupting the peace and threatening the lives of citizens will be dealt with "swiftly and severely." The prime minister was also reported as saying that standard security procedures for responding to sabotage of public property were being followed.

GPCA said the first explosion took place at about 08:45 hours (local time) at Vlissengen and Dowding Streets and damaged a Guyana Telecommunications Corporation (GTC) telephone cabinet and injured three persons—a supervisor of the National Guard Service, a high school student, and an employee of the accounts section of the state-owned Guyana Stores Ltd.

The injuries, caused by flying metal shrapnel, were treated at the Georgetown Hospital. All three people were discharged.

The agency said the second explosion took place at about 11:00 hours at Camp and New Market Streets causing minor damage to a sewerage distribution cabinet and blowing out the windows of a nearby house and also damaging the concrete structure of the house. No one was injured in that blast. GPCA added: "Police patrols alerted to what appeared to be a deliberate attempt to sabotage the city's telecommunications systems prevented a third explosive device from damaging another sewerage cabinet at Camp and Regent Streets. The police bomb squads discovered the explosive device and detonated it safely on site" at about 16:30 hours.

It said a fourth explosive device was discovered at a telecommunications installation at Camp and Middle Streets around 18:35 hours by police patrols who defused the device. GPCA added: "The police are now in possession of elements of the explosive device used in the sabotage attempts and have advanced their investigations into the matter....

"Police officials have asked the managements of both GTC and the Sewerage and Water Commission to take maximum precautions when inspecting their installations to avoid any injuries or loss of life... from any further attempts at sabotage."

PPP Accuses Government

FL0702000190 Bridgetown CANA in English 2100 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 6, CANA—Guyana's opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP) on Tuesday suggested that the government might be responsible for two bomb blasts in the capital city, Georgetown, Monday. PPP's international relations secretary and Central Committee member Clement Rohee, told CANA the PPP believes that the government might be trying to lay the foundation for an assault against the opposition.

Following the blasts by what police believe were homemade "pipe bombs" at telephone and sewage installations in the city and the discovery of two other similar bombs at other installations Monday, Prime Minister Hamilton Green said that any attempts at sabotage aimed at damaging the country's vital public utilities systems, at disrupting the peace and at threatening the lives of citizens, will be dealt with "swiftly and severely."

However, commenting on the blasts and on the prime minister's statement, Rohee told CANA: "What appears to be happening is a replay of the 1989 scenario whereby the ground is being laid for an assault against the opposition." He said that before the 1989 budget was presented, the government used the media to build up a "serious hysteria" by accusing the PPP of encouraging people to get into the streets to oppose the government. He said that with the national budget likely to be presented in another two weeks, "again we notice this kind of propaganda is being generated by the government."

He said one is "left to wonder whether this is a tactic being used by the government to create the kind of atmosphere to justify... the reprisals it might be contemplating against the opposition when the budget is presented."

PPP Leader Wants Divestment Program Halted

FL0602203790 Bridgetown CANA in English 1824 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 6, CANA—Guyana's opposition leader, Dr. Cheddi Jagan, is calling on the government to stop its divestment programme and present Parliament with all agreements already negotiated with foreign companies.

"This government has no mandate for the sellout denationalisation, privatisation and divestment. All deals must be halted. The government must seek a mandate at a certified free and fair election," Jagan said.

Jagan, leader of the People's Progressive Party (PPP) is also demanding that the government democratise the state-owned media by making it "completely independent."

Jagan's concerns are contained in a 12-point package for what he calls "genuine dialogue and improved morale" in Guyana. The demands are contained in a speech he had prepared for presentation to the National Assembly on January 29, when the assembly met to debate the address by President Desmond Hoyte at the ceremonial opening on January 24.

Jagan has been prevented from addressing the assembly, because of his refusal to apologise to speaker Sase Narain over an incident two years ago. Jagan made a copy of his speech available to the CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY (CANA).

He said the government's divestment plans amounted to selling out the country. On the question of the media, Jagan said, "Dialogue will only become meaningful ...when the state media is democratised and fair and equal treatment given to government and opposition and ...when talk, decision-making and action go together".

Dr. Jagan is also demanding that:

—the government open talks on electoral reform with the Patriotic Coalition for Democracy (PCD) which groups five opposition parties including the PPP;
—the government appoint an independent chairman of the elections commission;
—the current national registration exercise not be the basis of an electoral list;
—there be a preliminary count of votes at the place of poll at all elections;
—workers through their legitimate trade unions must be meaningfully involved in decision-making and management:
—the opposition be adequately represented in administering the Social Impact Amelioration Programme (SIMAP) for the vulnerable groups in the society; and
—bigger budgetary allocations be made for health, education, housing, welfare, subsidies, and self-help.